THE ALL-NEW TENCHI MUYŌ!™

Picture Book

STORY AND ART BY
HITOSHI OKUDA

Vol. 7

THE ALL-NEW TENCHI MUYO!™

When teenage Tenchi accidentally released a slumbering space pirate from her ancient prison, his life took a permanent turn for the weird. Now Tenchi lives in a Shinto shrine with a gaggle of hyperactive alien women, including the violently lovestruck Ryoko and Ayeka, angelic little princess Sasami, mad genius Washu, and ditzy spece cop Mihoshi. With e carrot-eating spaceship and a benevolent tree spirit rounding out the cest, they paint one heck of a picture.

That's exactly what a girl named Yae thinks when she meets the gang. Paralyzed by e cer accident in middle school, Yae has channeled her energy into art and dreams of becoming an illustrator. When she catches a glimpse of Tsunami, the Masaki shrine's resident tree spirit, Yae gets a brilliant idea for a children's book. But can Sasami allow Yae to tell her story...and risk exposing the secrets of Tenchi and all his otherworldly friends?

CONTENTS

Chapter 1:
Omen
5

Chapter 2:
Capture
33

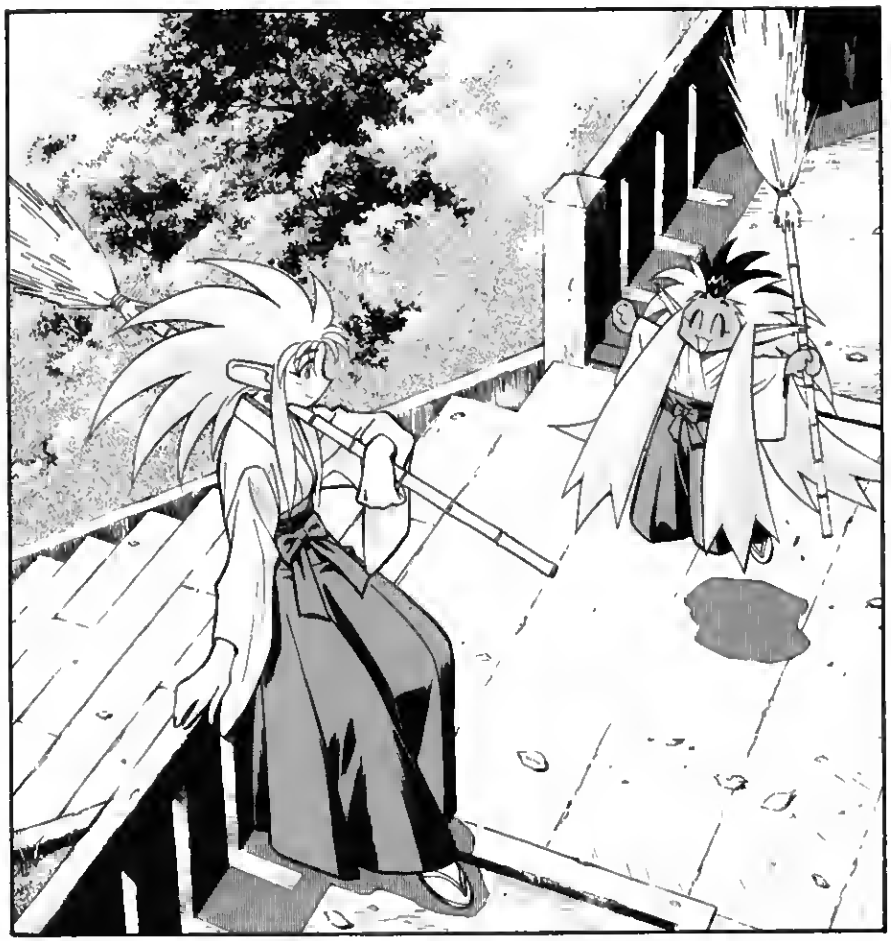
Chapter 3:
Shackles
61

Chapter 4:
Empathy
95

Chapter 5:
Games
131

Chapter 6:
Deterrent
155

Chapter 1: Omen



HAPPY NEW YEAR.
TO YOU, TOO.

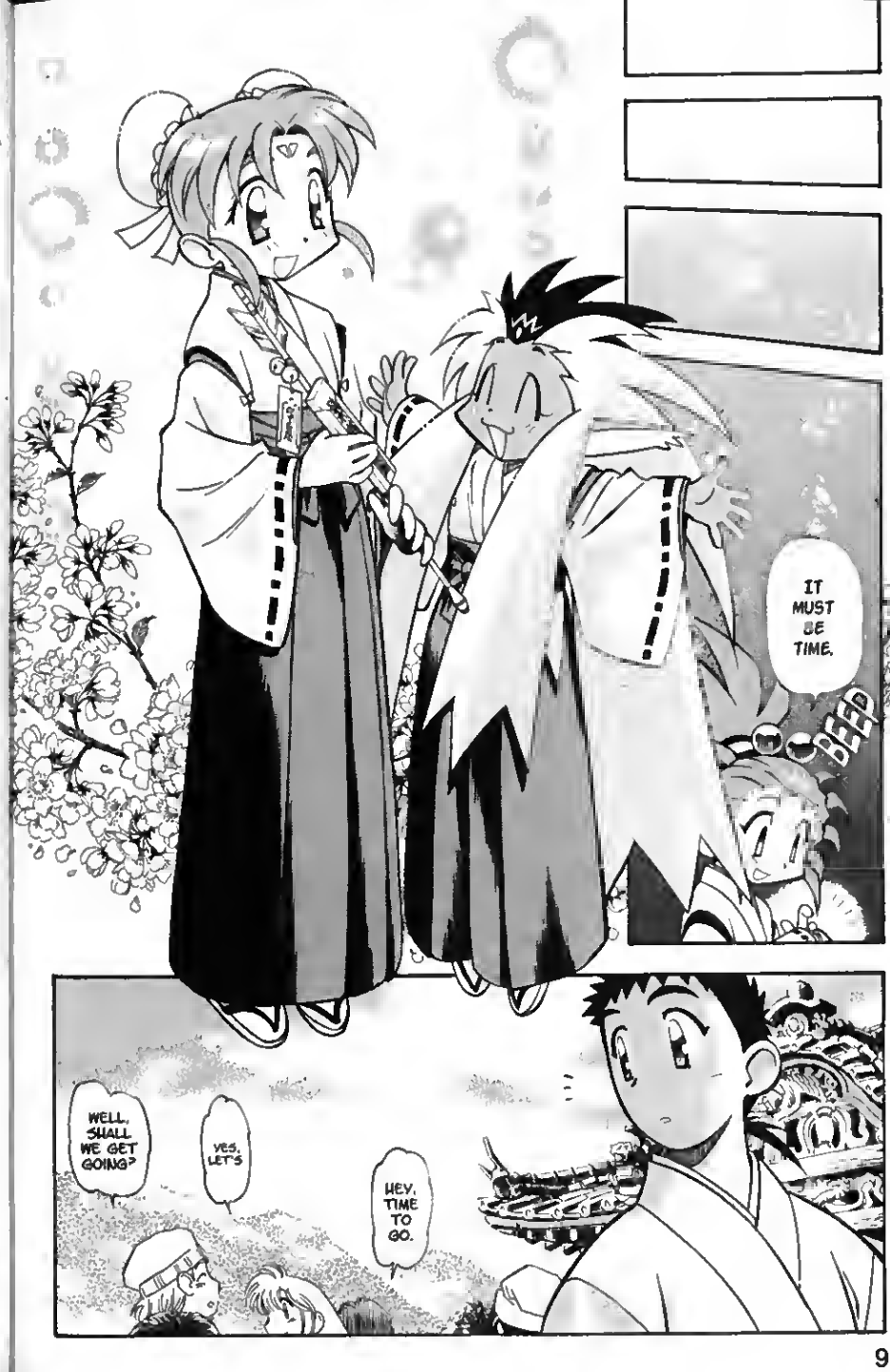
BZZ
A
A

A
A
H

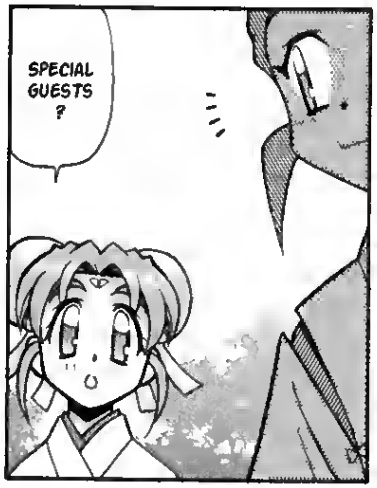
OUR SHRINE HAS THE FINEST PRIESTESSES IN THE AREA, BY FAR!
SELL THOSE MASAKI SHRINE CHARMS! SELL, SELL, SELL TILL YOU DROP!
GRANDPA...
HEH!

GET YOUR GOOD LUCK RIGHT HERE!
STEP RIGHT UP!
BZ
THIS MIRACLE CHARM MAKES YOUR EVERY WISH COME TRUE!
BZ
BZ
GIVE ME FOUR!
YES!
I'LL TAKE 15!

HEH, HEH!
LOOK HOW MANY I'VE SOLD! THE CUSTOMER IS ALWAYS RIGHT!
CONCEIT TO EXCESS ONLY LEADS TO RUIN.
AND THE CLEAVAGE IS A BIT MUCH!
I'LL SHOW YOU RUIN!
AS IF. TAKE A GOOD LOOK OVER THAT WAY.
SHE'S GOT US BEAT.
GOOD LUCK
ISN'T IT A NICE NEW YEAR?
SOME MORE FOR YOU!
100! I'LL TAKE 100!
30! GIVE ME 30!


IT MUST BE TIME.
BEEP
WELL, SHALL WE GET GOING?
YES, LET'S
HEY, TIME TO GO.

OH, NO! IS THE MASAKI SHRINE PASSE?
BUT YOU JUST GOT HERE!
BZZ
SO EARLY IN THE YEAR! OH, MY!
BZZ
BZZ
THE MIND-CONTROL DEVICE IN THE TORII GATE WORKS FLAWLESSLY.
THE SHRINE IS NOW OPEN TO SPECIAL GUESTS ONLY.


SPECIAL GUESTS ?

VM
VM
VM
VM
THEY SEEM TO BE HERE NOW!
SEE?

TA DA!
THE KING OF JURAI!
ALL OF THEM!
F-FATHER ?

SASAMI, IT'S BEEN WAY TOO LONG. ♡
GWOM

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH! OH, HOW I'VE MISSED YOU!

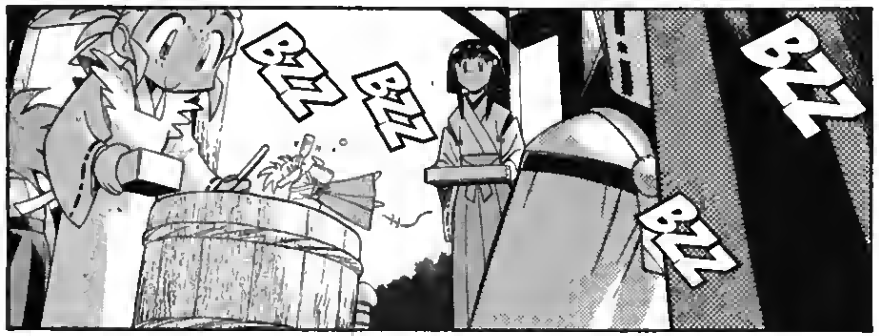
SNF...

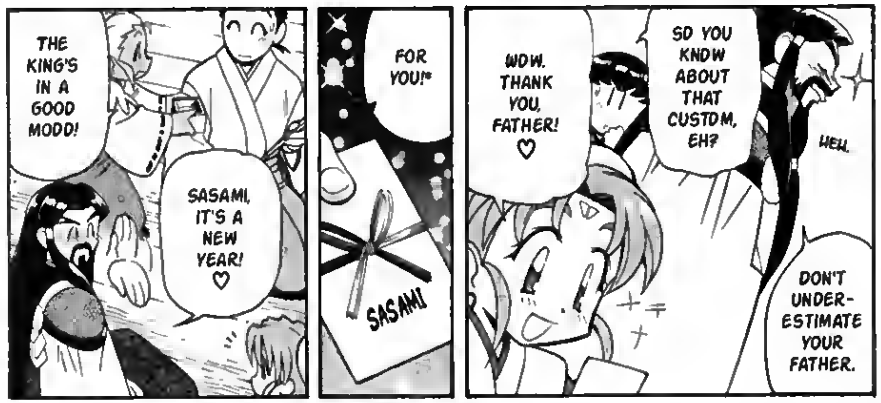
?
GULP!
OH, NOW!
YOU LOOK VERY NICE IN THAT! ♡

HUH ?
AW, HE'S REALLY JUST A HOPELESS DOTING DADDY.
DOTING DADDY! WHAT A RUDE THING TO SAY!
HE'S ANYTHING BUT...
PST
PST

AHEM!
I AM EMPEROR JURAI AZUSA MASAKI!
WOOM
NOT THIS TIME, DEAR.
BO
NK

I CAN'T HELP IT, FUNAHO!
PLEASE. YOSHO INVITED US HERE. LET'S BE GOOD!
ER...
AFTER ALL, THIS TIME WE'VE COME FOR A HAPPY VISIT.
THAT'S RIGHT. JUST RELAX! ♡
AMAZAKE ?




THE KING'S IN A GOOD MOOD!
SASAMI, IT'S A NEW YEAR! ♡
FOR YOU!*
SASAMI
WOW. THANK YOU, FATHER! ♡
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT CUSTOM, EH?
HEH.
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE YOUR FATHER.

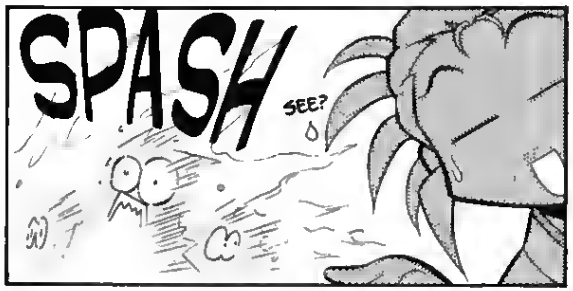
*At New Year's, it's traditional in Japan to give a gift of money in a decorated envelope called an "otoshidama."

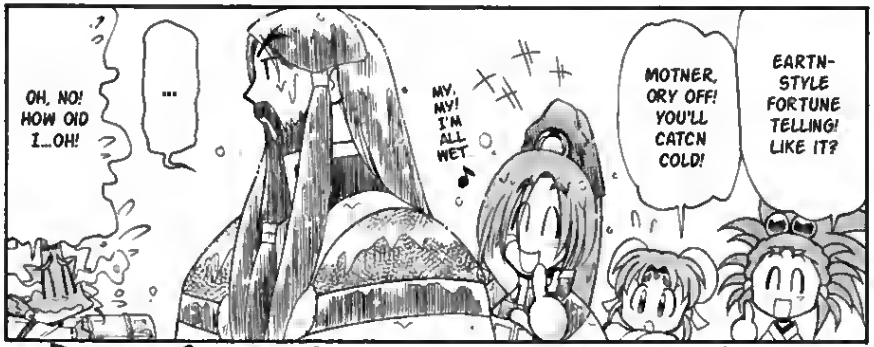
OH, ALL RIGHT.
WHSH
KATINK
SAAA
BWAH!
HA HA HA HA HA
YOO OOO OOO SHO!
FWIP FWIP
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D DO IT
YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR!"
HOW OLD IS THAT JOKE?
C'MON, TONE IT OOWN!
OW! OW!
*"OTOSHI DAMA" LITERALLY MEANS "FALLING COIN"
OTOSHIDAMA IS FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO GIVE YOUNGER ONES, RIGHT?
UMmm
TH... THAT'S OKAY, SASAMI.
ANYTHING FOR ME, GRANDMA?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
708 YEARS OLD
17 YEARS OLD
720 YEARS OLD
5,000 YEARS OLD

ONE OF MY SPECIAL FORTUNES, ANYONE?
OH, LET'S SEE.
FIP
"SOMETHING LOST WILL RETURN TO YOU."
"LOOK TO THE SOUTH FOR GOOD LUCK."
LOOK-ZUKU
SO THIS WILL TELL WHAT IS TO COME ?
RYOKO, IT'S VERY STRANGE, BUT THIS WAS OUT ON THE PORCH.
YES! THE SAKE THAT I LOST! ♡
LOOK TO THE...
OH! IT IS GOOD LUCK! ♡
OH MY!
CARE TO TRY?
CAN WE DRAW, TOO?

LESSER BAD LUCK
YOU WILL MEET WITH A FLOOD AND BE UNABLE TO ESCAPE.
HMPH!

NO, NO, NO!
OH, DEAR. NOW SAD.
TSH
TSH
TSH TSH


SPASH
SEE?


OH, NO! HOW OID I...OH!
...
MY, MY! I'M ALL WET
MOTNER, ORY OFF! YOU'LL CATCN COLD!
EARTN-STYLE FORTUNE TELLING! LIKE IT?

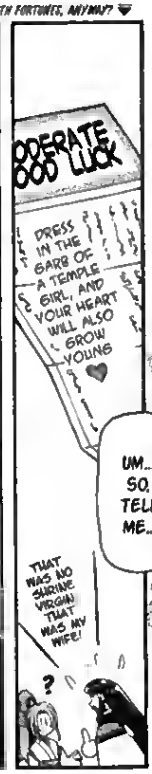
LET ME EXPLAIN! THE FORTUNES COME TRUE BY A COMBINATION OF INTERNAL FACTORS (THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TNE REAOER) AND EXTERNAL FACTORS (ENVIRONMENT ANO OTNER BEINGS).
MIZ-UOM
GOOD LUCK
IT'S A TRULY CAPTIVATING MECHANISM. ANO FUN!

NMPN!
FIP FAP
FIP
FAP

[SIGH]
ALL DRY
JUST LIKE A DOG.

A BASE GAME FOR A VILE WORLD. NMPH!
HONEY, HONEY! ♡

HOW DO I LOOK?

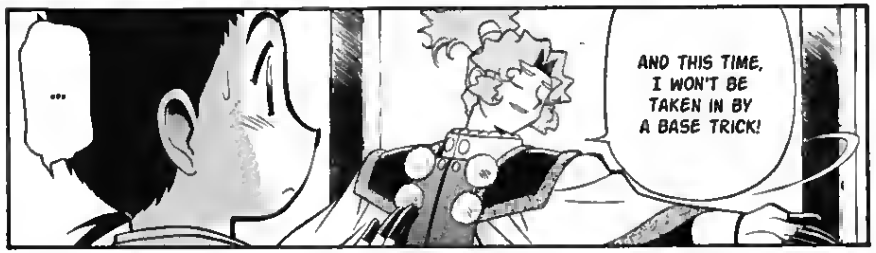

ODERATE OOD LUCK
PRESS IN THE BARK OF A TEMPLE GIRL, AND YOUR HEART WILL ALSO GROW YOUNG
THAT WAS NO SHRINE VIRGIN! THAT WAS MY WIFE!
?

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL WITH FORTUNES, ANYWAY?
...WHAT DO YOU TNINK, OEAR?
IS IT A BIT MUCH ?
UM... SO, TELL ME...

WH
AM
IT'S... UH... VERY NICE.
AW!
I'M GLAD. ♡
PST PST PST
HUH?
NOW, FATHER, WHY DON'T WE DRINK A BIT OF YOUR FAVORITE SAKE AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR TOGETHER ON GOOD TERMS?
ALL OF US!
AND WHERE DID YOU JUST APPEAR FROM?

BANG GHANG BANG GHANG
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR MAKING OFF LIKE THAT.
WHY DON'T YOU THINK OF YOUR DUTY AS FIRST PRINCE OF JURAI?
YO HO HO AND A ♪
THANKS TO YOU, AYEKA AND SASAMI ARE CURSED.
SO IT'S ABOUT THAT, EH?
OH, TENCHI... I SEEM TO HAVE DRUNK TOO MUCH.
AYEKA!
HEH HEH HEH
RMB RMB
TENCHI! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL!
EH?
.....
HUH?

WILL YOU FACE ME?
HEY... HEY, NOW!
SO MY TIME HAS COME.
SSS
SEIRYO?
HE'S HERE, TOO?
YES! I AM HERE TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY RESCUE TNE GIRLS FROM THIS RUTHLESS BARBARIAN!
...


...
AND THIS TIME, I WON'T BE TAKEN IN BY A BASE TRICK!

GO ON, BOY!
COME AND GET...
...A PIECE...
OF...

.....
OH, HE'S HARD TO BEAT.
ZL
SHF

MY WORD. WHAT IS WRONG WITH ALL OF YOU?
I SHALL TAKE HIM ON MYSELF!
YA
AH
ZASH
KTASH
MREOW!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
MROW
MYOW
EOST

WHUP
TSH
TSH
LOOK-

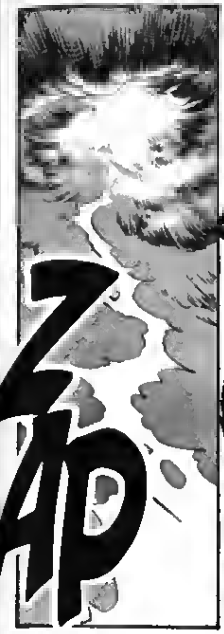
?
MM
HM
HM
MM

MROW!

MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW

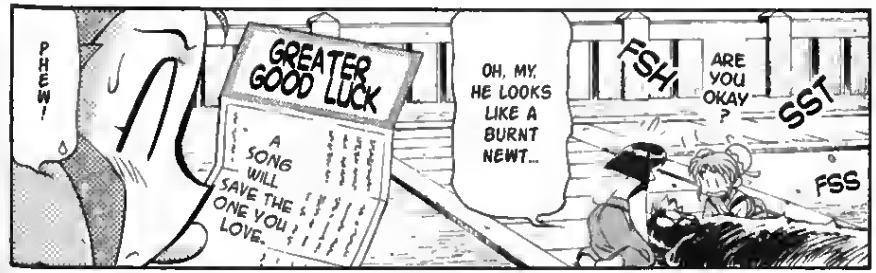
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW

WH... WHAT NOW?

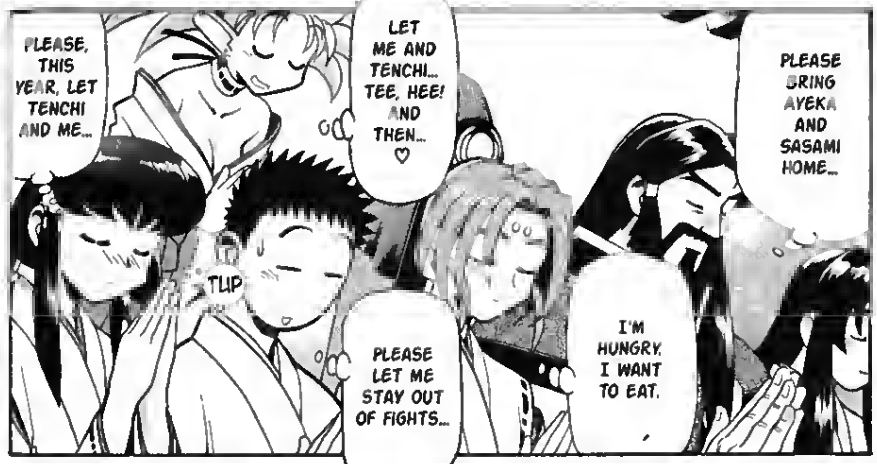

ZAP

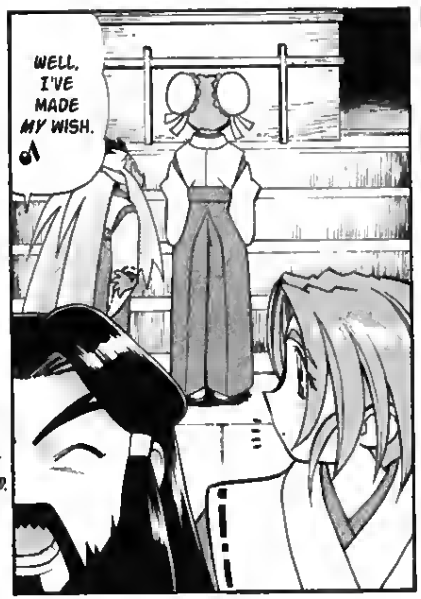
STIZ
BLITH

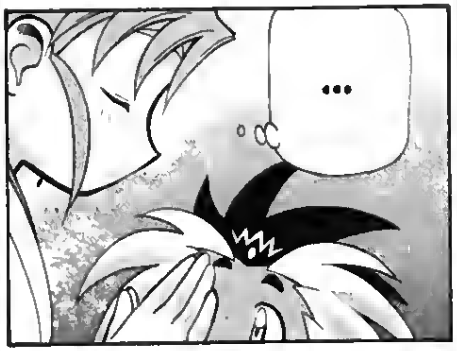
WHICH ONE OIO SHE GET?
FATHER!

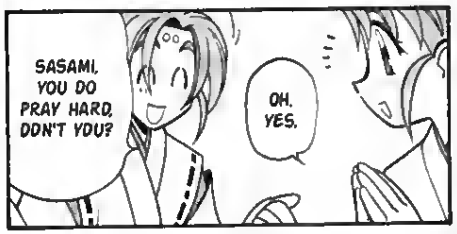

PHEW!
GREATER GOOD LUCK
A SONG WILL SAVE THE ONE YOU LOVE.
OH, MY, HE LOOKS LIKE A BURNT NEWT...
FSH
ARE YOU OKAY?
SST
FSS

CHANCE OF HEART? ▲


PLEASE, THIS YEAR, LET TENCHI AND ME...
LET ME AND TENCHI... TEE, HEE! AND THEN... ♡
PLEASE BRING AYEKA AND SASAMI HOME...
TLIP
PLEASE LET ME STAY OUT OF FIGHTS...
I'M HUNGRY. I WANT TO EAT.

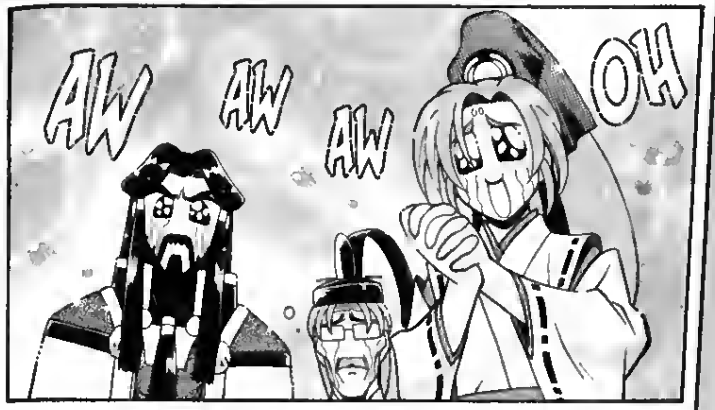






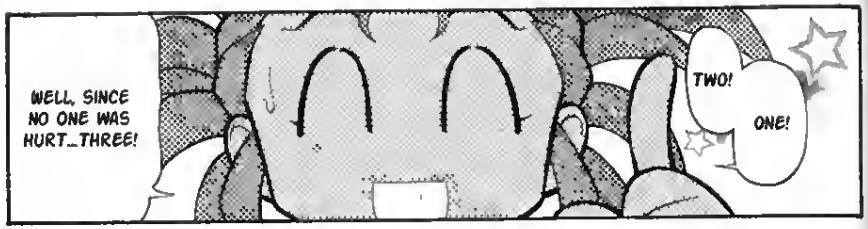
QUITE PLEASED.

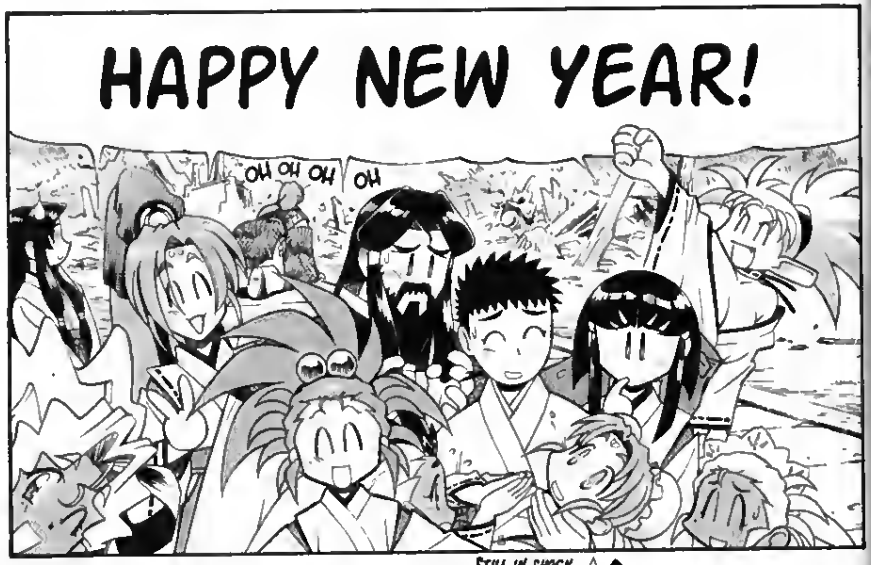
BUT I WANT TO PRAY FOR THE HAPPINESS...
...OF TENCHI AND RYOKO AND...AND EVERYONE.
HEE HEE... I GUESS IT'S KIND OF GREEDY...
...TO PRAY ONE AT A TIME LIKE THAT.



MMMM

NEED A FEST
GREATER BAD LUCK
WATCH YOUR HEAD. CALAMITY FROM ABOVE!
FP FAP FP FAP TSH
OH, NO!
SA.. SASAMI! ARE YOU OKAY?





STILL IN SHOCK...

HOME IS A HAVEN.

TENCHI MASAKI.

TENCHI AND BOOZE!

RYOKO.

LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED.

AYEKA MASAKI JURAI.

THE SUN RISES ON A NEW YEAR.

SASAMI MASAKI

FLOWERS!

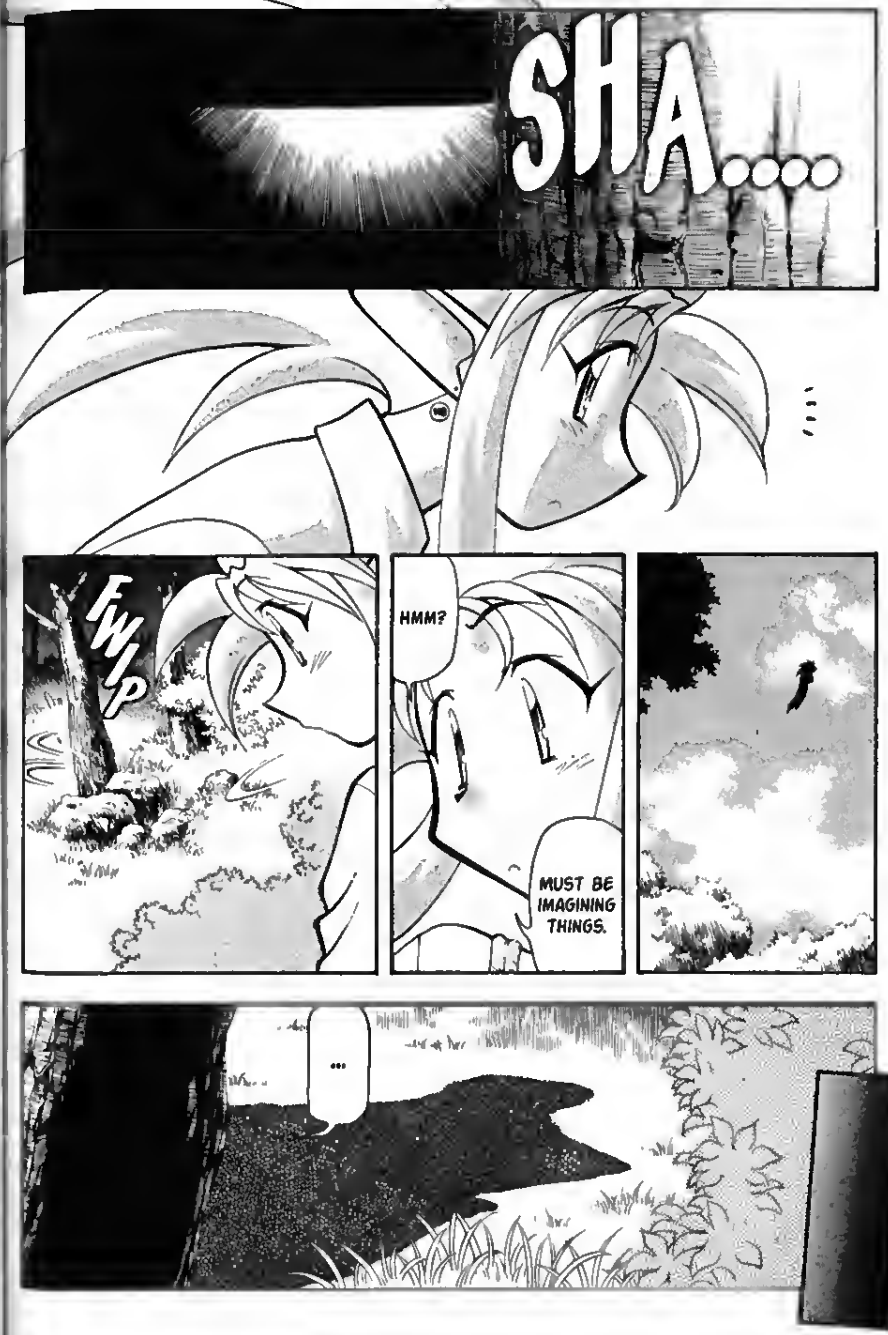
MIHOSHI KURAMITSU.

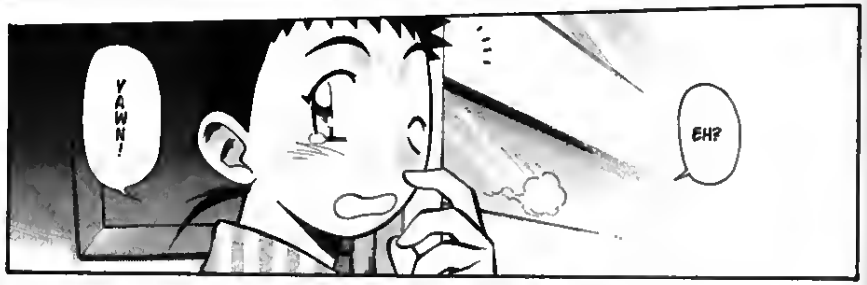
CARROTS.

TRUTH AND DREAMS RUN DEEP.

WASHU HAKUBI.

Chapter 2: Capture

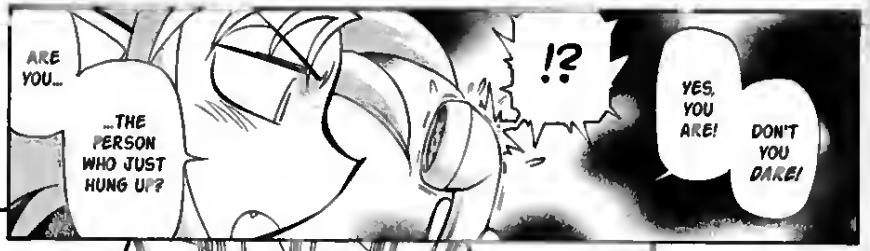

SHA....
...
FWIP
HMM?
MUST BE IMAGINING THINGS.
...



OOH, IS IT EVER GOOD! ♡
THIS IS THE BEST! ♡
RYOKO WOULDN'T NOTICE EVEN IF THERE WERE TETRODOTOXIN* OR SODIUM AZIDE** IN IT. WE SHOULD RUN SOME TESTS.
BRRRNG
HUH?
LEND ME A HAND, TAMA.
OKAY! ♡

*A DEADLY POISON. **DITTO.

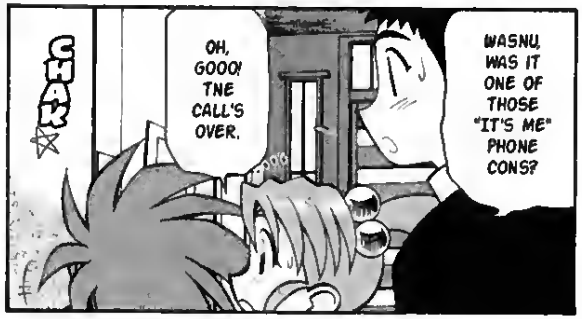
SO WHO WAS IT?
THEY HUNG UP! WITHOUT SAYING A WORD!
BRRRRNG
WAS IT A WRONG NUMBER, MAYBE?
CHAK
YES?
...
...
...

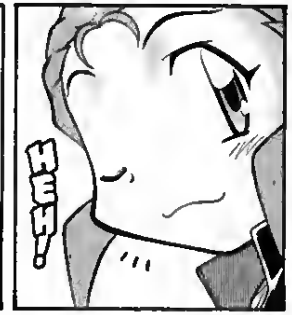

ARE YOU...
...THE PERSON WHO JUST HUNG UP?
!?
YES, YOU ARE!
DON'T YOU DARE!

IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN SAY IT!
WISHY-WASHY PEOPLE DRIVE ME NUTS!
?!

OH...
1MM
1MM

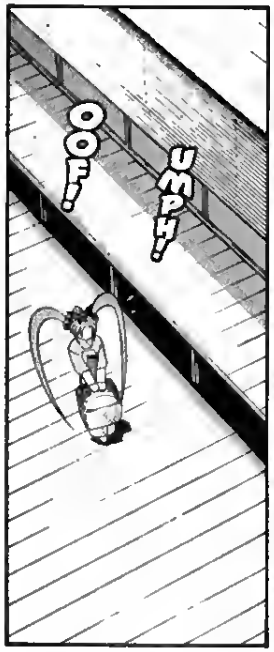
EASY DOES IT!
THERE'S A RIGHT WAY TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF PEOPLE.
OKAY, THEN! WHAT SHOULD I HAVE SAID?
YOU CAN SAY...
BRRRNG
CHAK
UH, NI!
MY MOTHER? UM, NO, SHE'S NOT HERE... WHAT?
MY FATHER CAUSED AN ACCIDENT, AND THE INJURED PARTY WANTS TO SUE?
...
...
...
TENCHI, THIS ONE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE THE PERSON FROM BEFORE.
WASHU WON'T FALL FOR AN "IT'S ME" FRAUD.

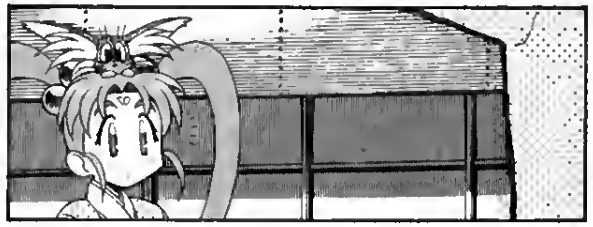

CHAK
OH, GOOD! THE CALL'S OVER.
WASHU, WAS IT ONE OF THOSE "IT'S ME" PHONE CONS?

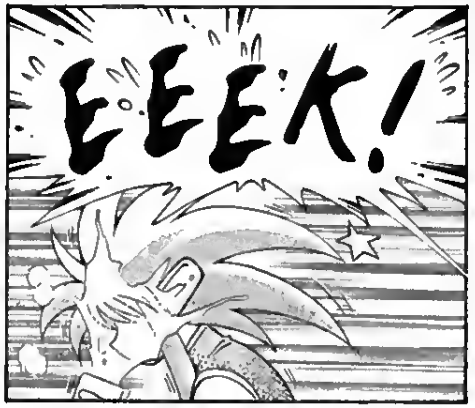

HEH...

BY THE TIME I WAS DONE, HE AGREED TO WIRE MONEY TO THE BANK OF MY CHOICE!
CLP CLP CLP CLP
WOW! NICE WORK!
NEVER TRY TO CON A CON ARTIST... I MEAN, A GENIUS!

MEANWHILE...
LOOK AT THIS!
10 MILLION YEN WERE WIRED INTO OUR BANK, SISTER!
OH! THANKS BE TO GOD!

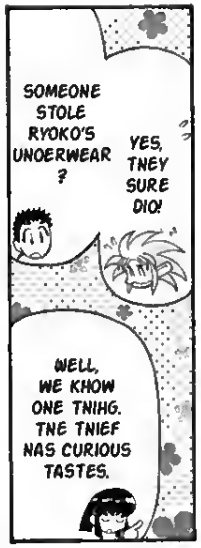

OOF!
UMPH!



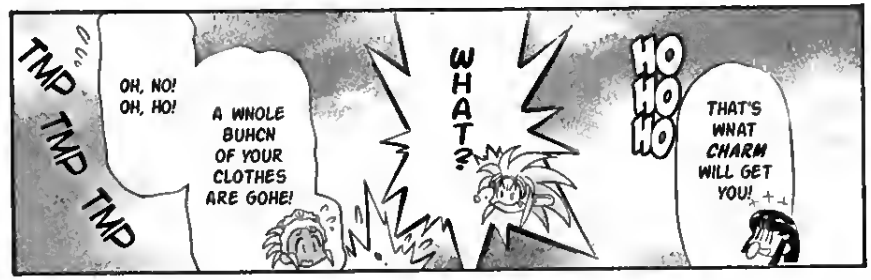

EEEK!

WHAT IS IT, SASAMI?
OH, ON, ON, OH!

OUR LAUNDRY! SOME OF IT HAS BEEN... TAKEN.


SOMEONE STOLE RYOKO'S UNDERWEAR?
YES, THEY SURE DID!
WELL, WE KNOW ONE THING. THE THIEF HAS CURIOUS TASTES.

THE THIEF IS CLEARLY LOOKING FOR FEMININE CHARM--WHICH IS WHY ALL YOUR THINGS ARE STILL HERE!
WH... WHAT DID YOU SAY?
FEMININE CHARM, HUH?
DON'T WORRY, SASAMI. YOURS WILL GET STOLEN SOMEDAY, TOO! ♡
GREAT!


TMP TMP TMP
OH, NO! OH, HO!
A WHOLE BUNCH OF YOUR CLOTHES ARE GONE!
WHAT?
HO HO HO
THAT'S WHAT CHARM WILL GET YOU!

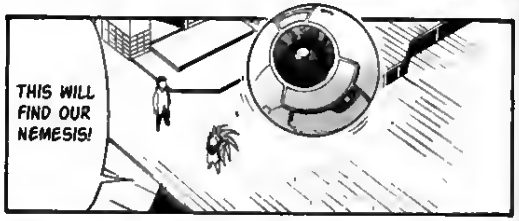
AND THE NEXT DAY...
NOOM
...
LOOKS LIKE THE STALKER HAS STRUCK AGAIN.
ISN'T IT NICE YOUR LITTLE FRIEND ISN'T HOSTILE? ♡
WE CAN ASSUME YOUR STALKER MADE THE SILENT CALLS, TOO.
THEY DID A NICE JOB ON THE LAUNDRY, THOUGH! STARCH!
WELL DONE.
WHOEVER'S OUT TO GET YOU HAS MY DEEP ADMIRATION.
OH, BOY.
WHAT IS IT, RYO--

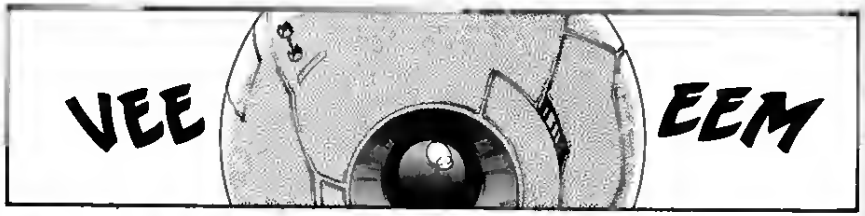
BAM
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS!

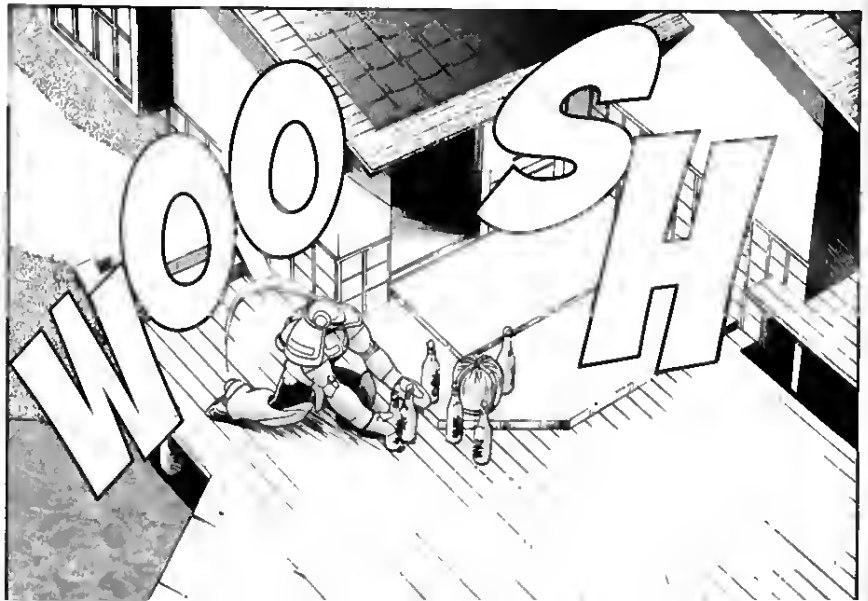
FW
AM

WHAT'S SHE GOING TO DO?
OOMPH
WHAP
SHE HAS NO IDEA WHERE HER OPPONENT EVEN IS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MY EYE IN THE SKY!
GOING HIGH-TECH. WHAT ELSE?


THIS WILL FIND OUR NEMESIS!


VEE
EEM


WOOSH

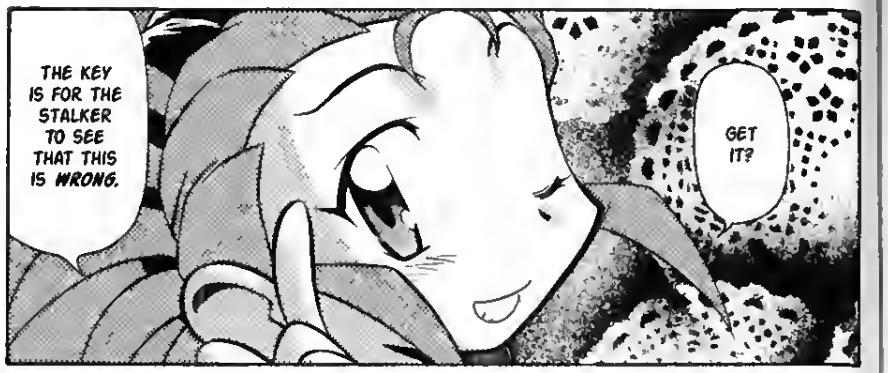
WHAT! SOME KINO OF A ROBOT WANTS ME?
HAAA
NO, THE BODY SENSOR WENT OFF, SO...
HAAA
AHHH
...IT'S A CYBORG, OR HAS A PERSON INSIDE.

GAA
AH
I'M GONNA THRASH IT BUT GOOD!

AS IF THAT'LL SOLVE ANYTHING.
HUH ?
THESE TYPES OFTEN COME BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN.

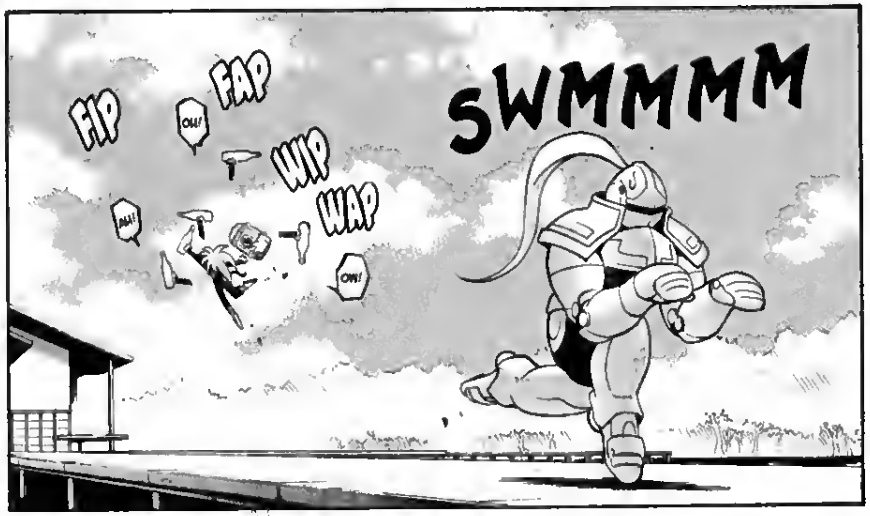
THEN I'LL KILL HIM!
NO, RYOKO! YOU'D BETTER NOT!
NOW I'M MORE AFRAID FOR THE STALKER.

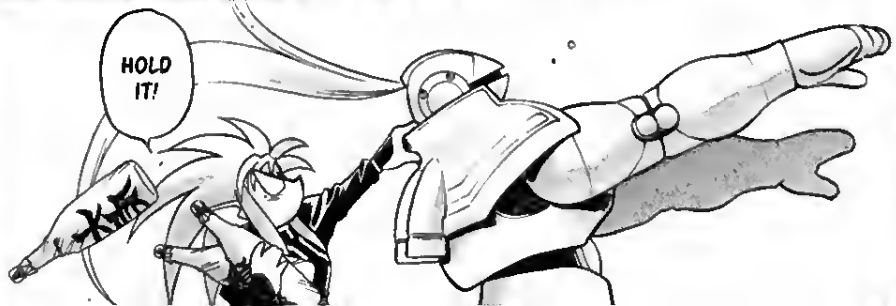
SNIF!
THAT'S SO COLD...


THE KEY IS FOR THE STALKER TO SEE THAT THIS IS WRONG.
GET IT?

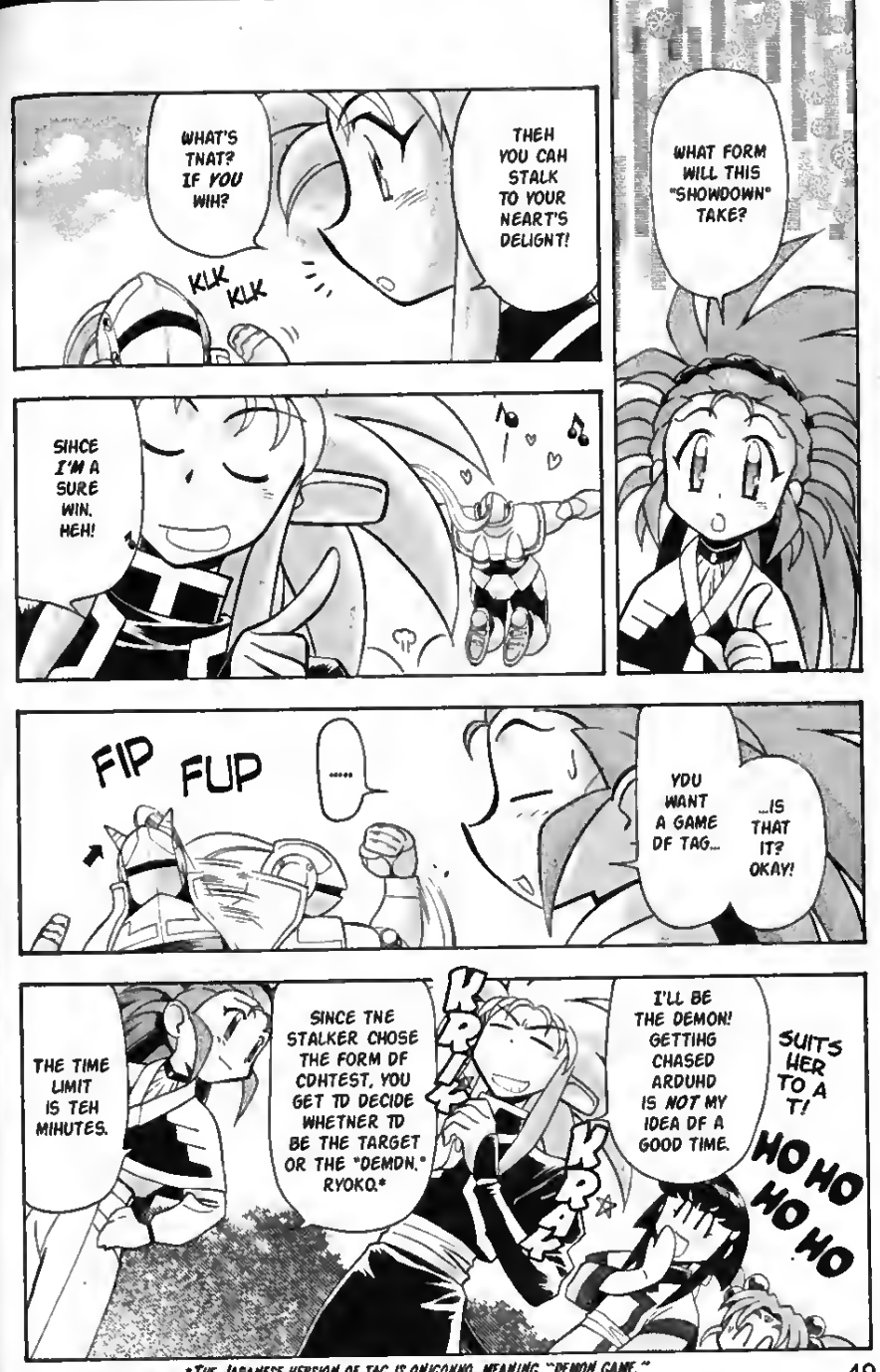
FUP
SSSH
KLNK
HEY!
GAH!

SKASH
OOPS!
FAP


FIP
OW!
FAP
WIP
WAP
OW!
SWMMMM


HOLD IT!

FWUMP
I CAH SEE...
...HOW YOU'D WANT TO STALK DHE AS ATTRACTIVE AS ME.
BUT YOU'RE AVERSE TO JUST OGLIHG ME FROM TNE BACKGRDUND.
AND YOU'LL GO BACK TO YOUR OLD TRICKS WHEH YOU GET OUT OF JAIL, RIGHT?
SO I OUGHT TO JUST KILL YOU...
...BUT I'LL GIVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE.
NO, NO, NO!
YOU CAN'T KILL HIM!
IT'S SHOWDOWN TIME!
?!
WE'LL NAVE A LITTLE CDMPETITION. IF I WIN, YOU'LL AGREE TO STOP STALKING ME!


WHAT'S TNAT? IF YOU WIH?
KLK KLK
THEH YOU CAH STALK TO YOUR NEART'S DELIGHT!
WHAT FORM WILL THIS "SHOWDOWN" TAKE?
SIHCE I'M A SURE WIN. HEH!
FIP FUP
.....
YDU WANT A GAME DF TAG...
...IS THAT IT? OKAY!
THE TIME LIMIT IS TEH MIHUTES.
SINCE TNE STALKER CHOSE THE FORM DF CDHTEST, YOU GET TD DECIDE WHETNER TD BE THE TARGET OR THE "DEMDN." RYOKO.*
KRAK KRAK
I'LL BE THE DEMON! GETTIHG CHASED ARDUHD IS NOT MY IDEA DF A GOOD TIME.
SUITS HER TO A T!
HO HO HO HO

*THE JAPANESE VERSION OF TAG IS ONIGOKKO, MEANING "DEMON GAME."

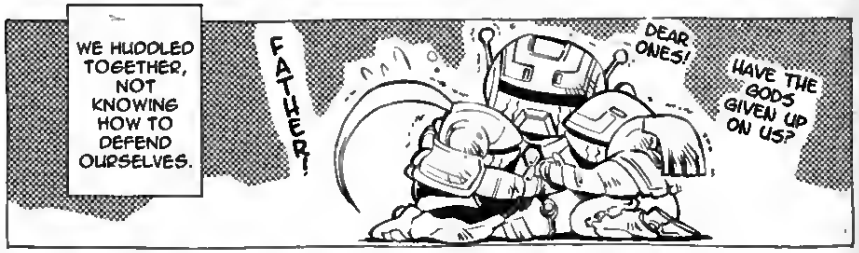
AND THIS ISN'T TOUCH TAG... YOU CAN TACKLE, SO GET SET!
ONE, TWO, THREE... GO!
GLIK
TMP TMP
ISH
HEY!
WOW, HE'S FASTER THAN HE LOOKS! WELL...
TP TP TP TP TP
...IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
HOFF
...I'LL JUST HAVE TO TEACH HIM NOT TO RUN FROM THIS DEMON!
ISH
I'LL GET YOU!
FSH!
HUH ?
WOO
NO, NO! NO FAIR!
?!
BZH BZH BZH

HUH?
OUR PLAYING FIELD HAS A 200-METER RADIUS.
OOPS! FORGOT TO TELL YOU!
OTHERWISE SHE'D CHASE HIM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
TALK ABOUT A REAL DISASTER...
OKAY, THIS IS IT!
VSH
VSH
VSH
FSST
TAG'S YOUR GAME?
PRNG
LET'S SEE YOU DODGE!
WSH
THREE!
VAM
WA

GWUP
GOTCHA!
ZWU
MP
YOU... YOU CAD!
BAP
BAP
BAP
BAP
HOW MANY LICKS DOES IT TAKE?

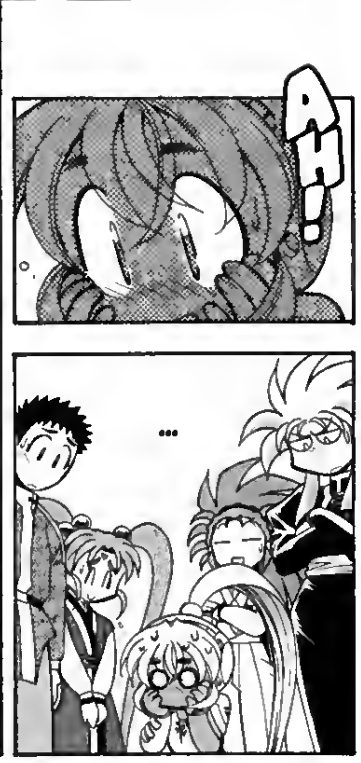
HEY, LOOK OUT!
KRASH
SNFF
OH, NO, NO!
PLEASE DON'T STARE AT ME LIKE THAT. PLEASE!
A GIRL!?
UM, ER... SO...
...MY STALKER IS A GIRL? BUT WHY?

YOU WANT TO KNOW?
YUP
YOU SEE, 1,000 YEARS AGO, ONE OF THE GREAT ARTIFACTS OF OUR PLANET WAS ABOUT TO BE WRECKED BY BUILDERS.
WE GOT A ROAD TO PUT IN!
ART? IS DAT A FACT?
KNOCK THAT SILLY IDOL DOWN!


WE HUDDLED TOGETHER, NOT KNOWING HOW TO DEFEND OURSELVES.
FATHER!
DEAR ONES!
HAVE THE GODS GIVEN UP ON US?

VOO
VM
BUT JUST THEN...
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO DESTROY THIS IDOL?
...THE BRAVE RYOKO GAVE THOSE BUILDERS A FIERCE BEATING!
ZAP
ZAP
TWMP

I'LL TAKE THAT!
I CAN STILL SEE IT IN MY MIND! WHAT A FINE, HEROIC FIGURE YOU CUT! ♡
BUT WASN'T THE RELIC STILL GONE?
RYOKO TOOK IT!
AS LONG AS IT'S STILL WHOLE, WE'RE HAPPY! ♡

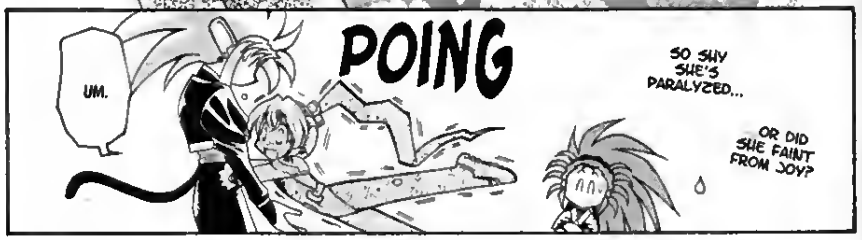

AH!
...

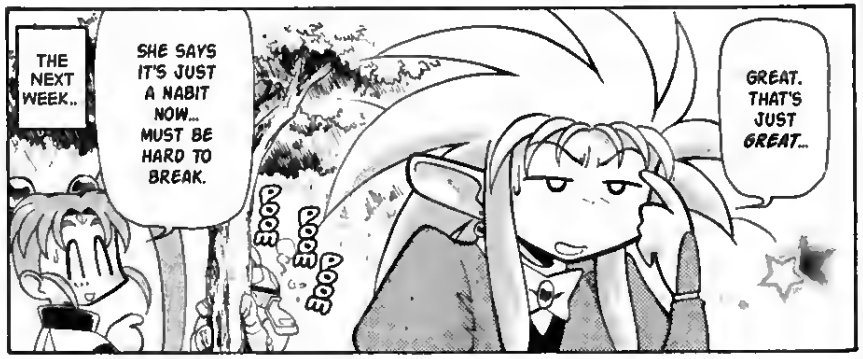
YEEK!!

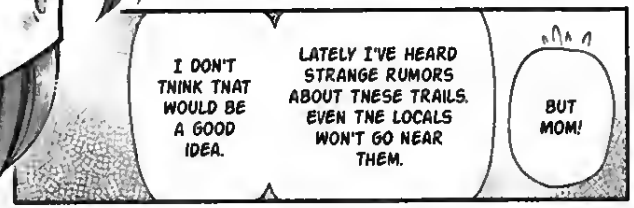
I-I'M SORRY! I HAVE A DEATHLY FEAR OF STRANGERS!
TMP TMP TMP
DOOM
DOOM
YOU DON'T GET OUT MUCH, HUH?

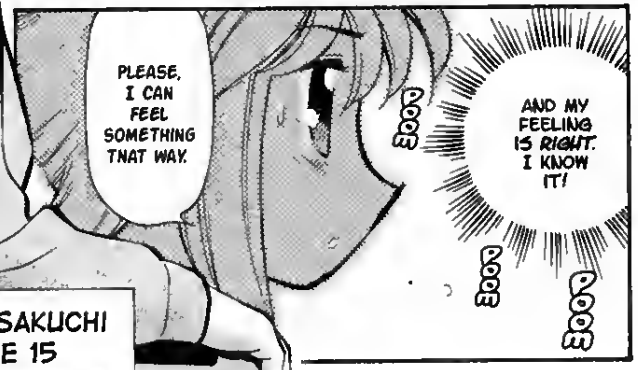
NOT UNTIL I CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU.
BUT I'VE LOST, SO...
...I'LL NEVER GO NEAR YOU AGAIN, RYOKO!
UM...YEAH, GOOD. SUITS ME FINE.
DO YOU MEAN THAT?
!
WHAT? YOU'RE SAYING I'M AT FAULT HERE?
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE'S SAYING.
BUT WHAT IF SHE GOES OFF AND SLITS HER WRISTS?
OH, THE BLOOD IS... RED, RED, RED...
BRRR
OR HANGS HERSELF BY THE NECK?
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
DOOB
DOOB
DOOB
I CAN NEVER FORGET HER...

TCH...
EH?
OKAY.
I'LL AGREE TO SEE HER, ALL RIGHT?
WE CAN MEET UP EVERY 100 YEARS...NO, OKAY, ONCE A YEAR!





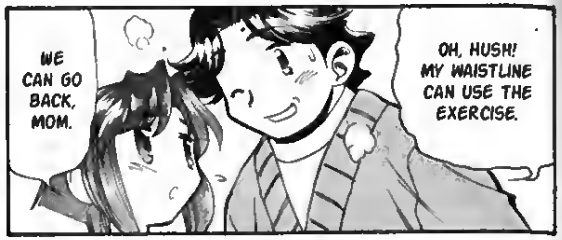

I DON'T THINK THAT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.
LATELY I'VE HEARD STRANGE RUMORS ABOUT THESE TRAILS. EVEN THE LOCALS WON'T GO NEAR THEM.
BUT MOM!

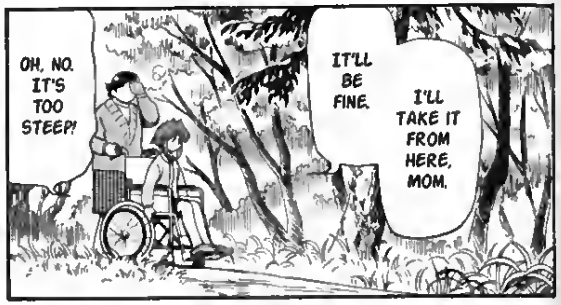


YAE ASAKUCHI
AGE 15

Chapter 3: Shackles

HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF


WE CAN GO BACK, MOM.
OH, HUSH! MY WAISTLINE CAN USE THE EXERCISE.


OH, NO. IT'S TOO STEEP!
IT'LL BE FINE.
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE, MOM.

PHEW. I'M BEAT. NOW...
EH?

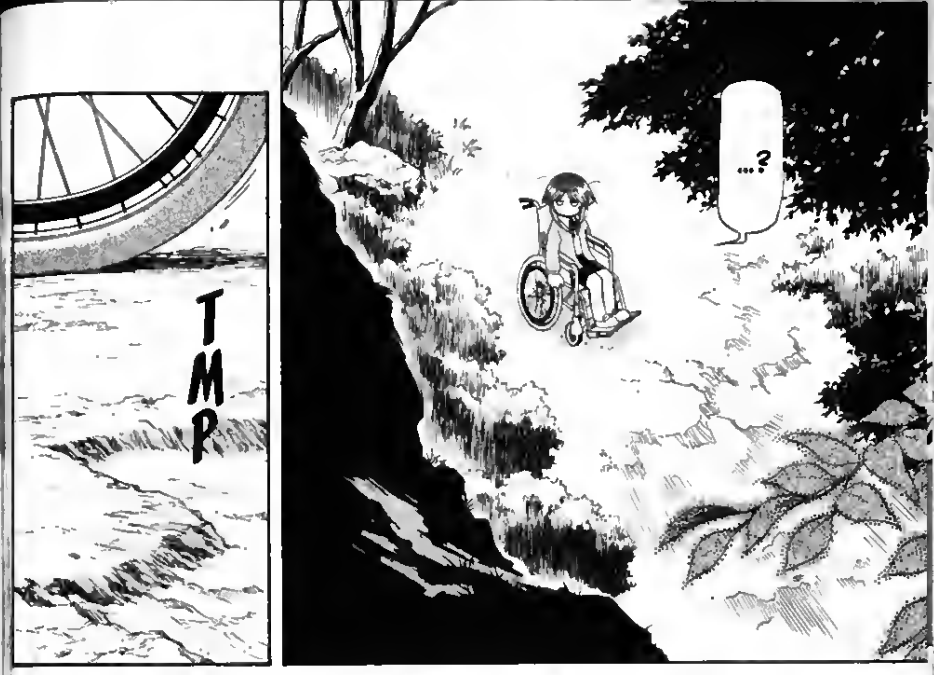
WHAT?!
VUP
VUP
VP
VP
VP
AAAAH!
THE BRAKES ARE BROKEN, AND I...

!

OH...

WHO'S THAT?

WOOO


TMP
...?

YAE!
ARE YOU OKAY, YAE?
OH...
OH, YES.

MOM, I SAW HER...
...I SAW HER AGAIN.

OH, YOU WRITE PICTURE BOOKS?
YES, BUT I'M NEW TO IT.

A SMALL PUBLISHER HELD A COMPETITION, AND SHE WOH HONORABLE MENTION. THEY'VE BEEH IH TOUCH...
...BUT SHE'S HAVING A HARD TIME WRITIHG FOR THEM.
YES, YES, I AM.
HMM
WHAT KIHD OF THINGS DO YOU WRITE ABOUT, YAE?

P-PLEASE, SASAMI... WILL YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THE SPIRIT BEHIND YOU?

TH... THIS GIRL...
...KNOWS ABOUT TSUNAMI ?

GWUM
?!

UM...
UH...

YOUR EYES... TRICK OF THE LIGHT!
IT'S YOUR IMAGINATION, THAT'S ALL.
BUT YOUR VOICE JUST GOT HIGH!
FLIP
FLAP

PLEASE? THIS MAY BE WHAT I NEED TO GET OUT OF MY SLUMP.
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
HEY, BE CAREFUL NOW!
OH, I BEG YOU!
PLEASE!
OKAY, HOLD IT! ♡
BAM
OUCH.
THE DOOR'S OVER THERE.
OH, BUT—
WHAT A SHOCKER. TO THINK THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN SEE TSUNAMI. WOW.
BUT IT LOOKS AS IF SHE GAVE UP AND WENT HOME...CASE CLOSED.
UM... TENCHI, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT...
HUH?

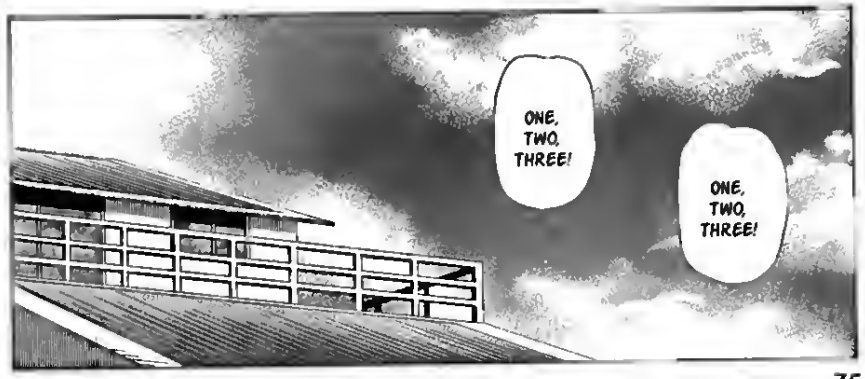
WELL, THIS IS FUN. FEELS LIKE A CAMPOUT. ♡
YEAH.
DO WE HAVE A PLAN FOR THIS?
PST
PST
PST
PST
PST
JUST BE QUIET.
THEY CAN'T FIND OUT ABOUT US.
?...
THOSE TWO SURE ARE GUTSY. WOO!
HANG IN THERE, AZAKA AND KAMIDAKE!

?
BZ BZ BZ

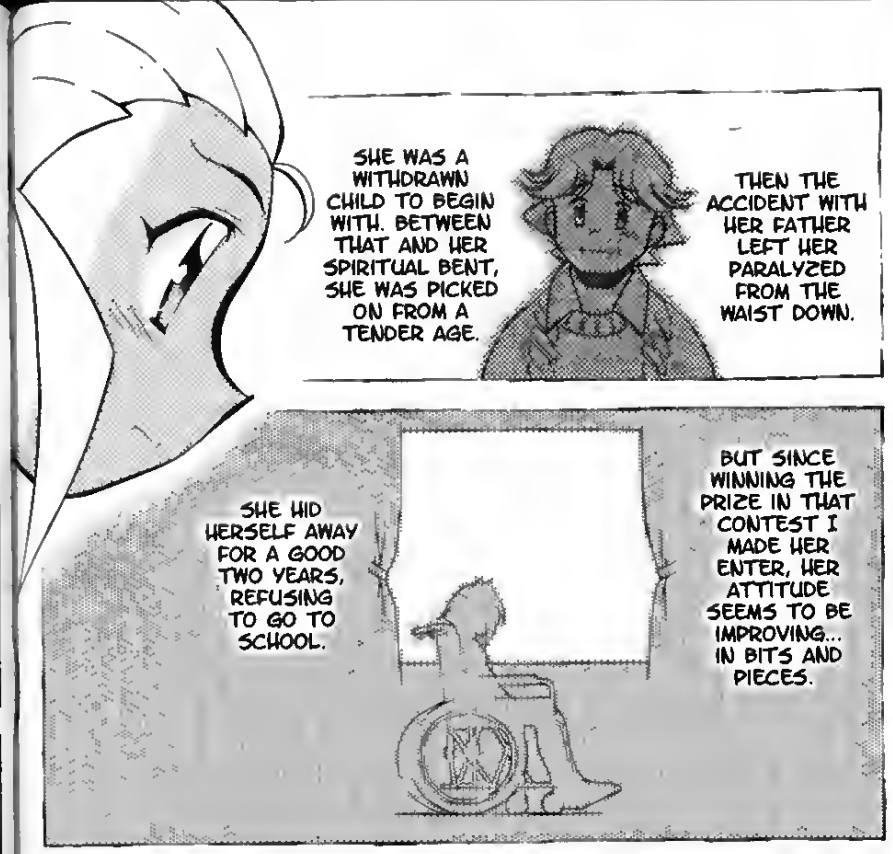
AND A LION, TOO!
WOW, IT'S GOOD.

.....

CUP OF TEA?
OH, YES...
THANK YOU.


ONE, TWO, THREE!
ONE, TWO, THREE!

YOU CAN DO IT, BIG SIS YAE! ♡
THAT'S THE WAY! YEAH!
HFF
UFF
HFF
Y-YOU WILL LET ME MEET HER?
IT WAS A PROMISE! I-IF I DO REHAB, YOU'LL LET ME MEET YOUR SPIRIT FRIEND.
I'LL KEEP MY PART.
...


SHE WAS A WITHDRAWN CHILD TO BEGIN WITH. BETWEEN THAT AND HER SPIRITUAL BENT, SHE WAS PICKED ON FROM A TENDER AGE.
THEN THE ACCIDENT WITH HER FATHER LEFT HER PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN.
SHE HID HERSELF AWAY FOR A GOOD TWO YEARS, REFUSING TO GO TO SCHOOL.
BUT SINCE WINNING THE PRIZE IN THAT CONTEST I MADE HER ENTER, HER ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING... IN BITS AND PIECES.
WHAT? OH, YES... I HAVE FAITH IN WHAT SHE SAYS.
I CAN'T SEE THIS SPIRIT, BUT YAE CAN. NO QUESTION.
HER MIND IS FINE. IT'S HER LEGS.
THEY SAY SHE MAY BE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN, WITH INTENSIVE REHAB.
THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR...

FWAP
NO DOUBT MY MOM TALKED YOU INTO MAKING ME DO REHAB.
IT'S JUST SO LIKE HER.

DON'T BE MAD AT ME BIG SIS.
IT'S ALL FOR THE BEST.

THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY...
...BUT DON'T WORRY. I UNDER-STAND.
I'M SORRY, BIG SISTER YAE...

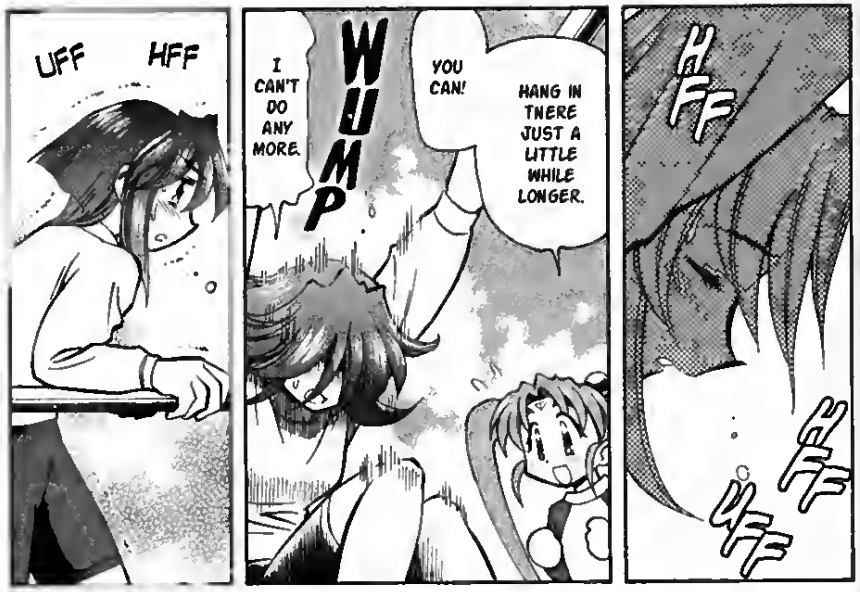
MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID YOU MAKE THAT GREEN PEPPER DISH?
CAN YOU SHOW ME?

YOU BET. ♡
SO YOU LIKE GREEN PEPPERS, THEN?
MMM! LOVE THEM! ♡

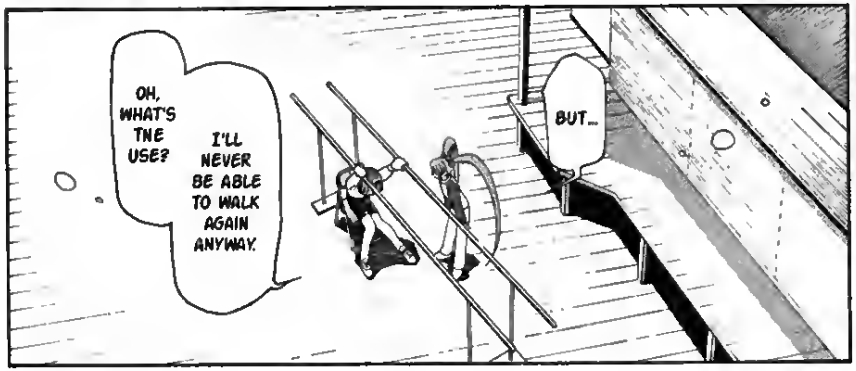
WHAT A NICE MEAL.

AND IT'S AYEKA'S TURN TO CLEAN UP, SO IT'S EVEN NICER! ♪
OKAY, OKAY. I HEAR YOU.
DON'T WORRY. I'LL HELP YOU.
TELL US, YAE. WHAT KIND OF STORY ARE YOU WORKING ON?

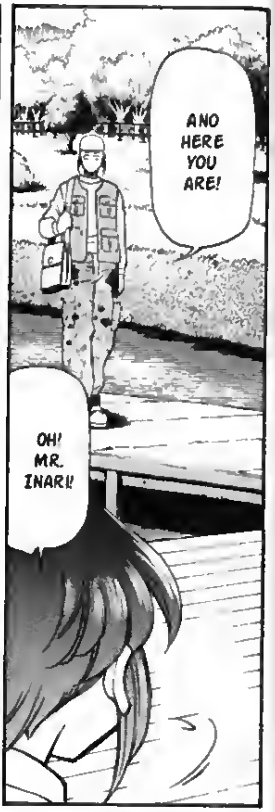
WELL... TO OVERSTATE SOMEWHAT, IT'S MEANT TO PRESENT AN ANTITHESIS OF SORTS TO MATERIAL CULTURE...
SLOSH
I-I'M SORRY I GOT AHEAD OF MYSELF
ACTUALLY, I GUESS IT'S ABOUT FINALLY RE-MEETING A SPIRIT AT A PROMISED PLACE.
AND THE SPIRIT BEHIND SASAMI IS JUST WHAT I HAD IN MIND FOR MY SPIRIT.

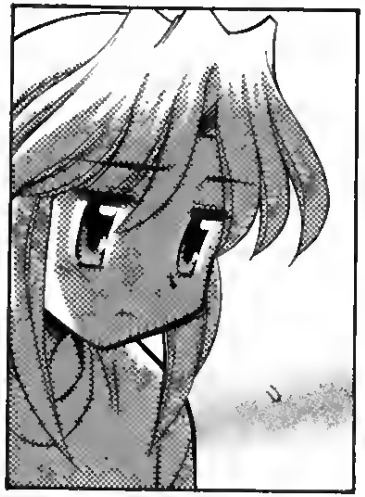


MEETING THAT SPIRIT WILL BRING ME OUT OF MY SLUMP... I'M SURE OF IT!



I'M SORRY. IT'S NOT MY PLACE...
...TO SAY ALL THIS TO YOU.


ANO HERE YOU ARE!
OH! MR. INARI!



I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU, MISS YAE.

...?
THIS IS MY BOOK AGENT.
YOUR DEADLINE'S APPROACHING FAST. YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP CHURNING IT OUT, LITTLE BY LITTLE...

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS GUY...
ANO ON YOUR TOPIC!
ALL THAT "IMPORTANCE OF NATURE" STUFF IS ON THE OUTS NOW. THESE DAYS, READERS PREFER TO HAVE AN ANIMAL *DIE* TO GET THE STORY REALLY MOVING.

SEEING AS IT'S NOT TOO LATE, I WANT YOU TO CHANGE YOUR SUBJECT.
UH...
YES?
NO... NO, I WON'T.

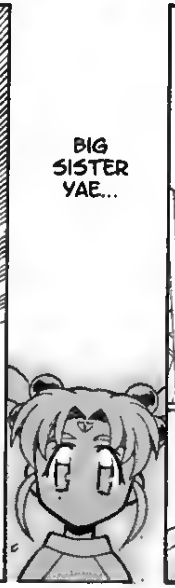
AH!

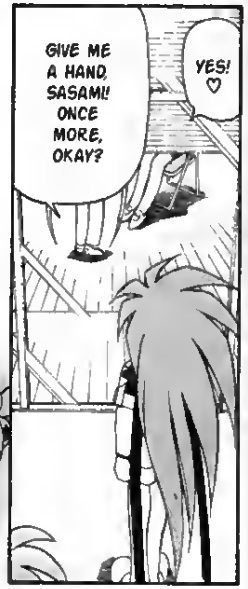
IT'S MY STORY AND I WON'T RUN AWAY FROM IT!
!

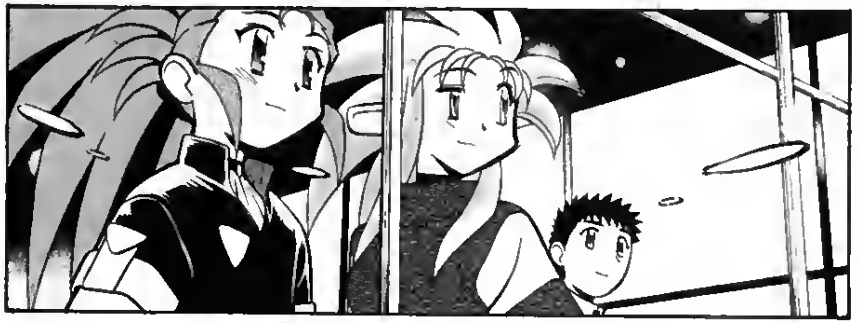
THIS IS ONLY YOUR DEBUT!
DON'T PLAY BIG SHOT WITH ME!

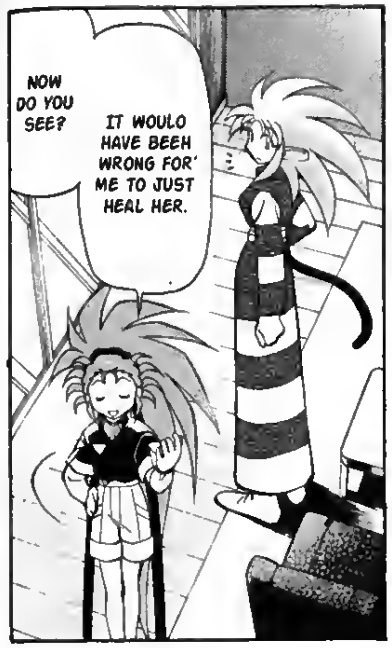
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
D-DID YOU HEAR ME?

THANK YOU, SASAMI! I'LL WALK AGAIN... AND I'LL FACE THIS PICTURE BOOK HEAD-ON, AS WELL.
I WON'T RUN AWAY!


BIG SISTER YAE...


GIVE ME A HAND, SASAMI! ONCE MORE, OKAY?
YES! ♡




NOW DO YOU SEE?
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG FOR ME TO JUST HEAL HER.

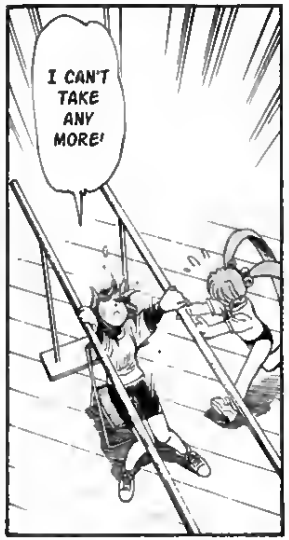
OH, COME ON!
I SAW THAT FROM THE VERY START!

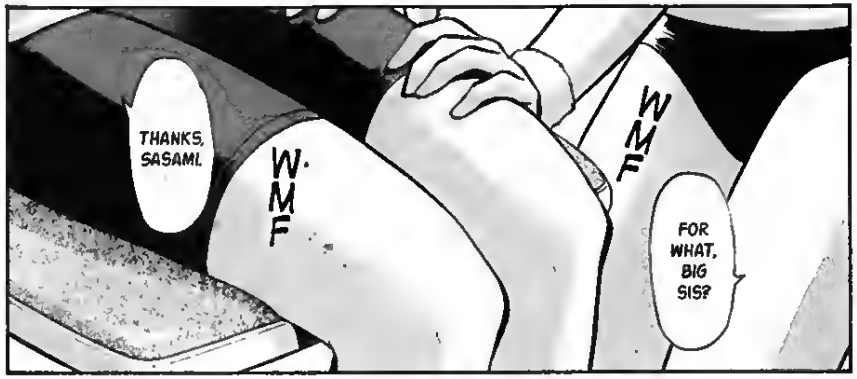
OH, YOU DID?
IS THAT WHY YOU SAID, "FIX HER UP AND GET HER OUTTA HERE"?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I NEVER SAID THAT!

I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL...
BRRRRING
BZZZZ
BRRRRING
IS IT IN YET?
TYPESET IT NOW!
LET HER DO THIS HER OWN WAY!
LOOK, IHARI, YOU'RE NOT THE WRITER. YOU'RE THERE TO GIVE ADVICE.
SEEING TO HER MENTAL HEALTH IS PART OF YOUR JOB.
KEEP IT IN MIND.
BZZZZZ
EDITOR
DID WE GET AN E-MAIL?

WHAT AN OUTDATED MINDSET!

AS TIME WENT ON...





FOR ALL YOU DO FOR ME.
REALLY?
I'M JUST GLAD YOU LET ME HELP! ♡

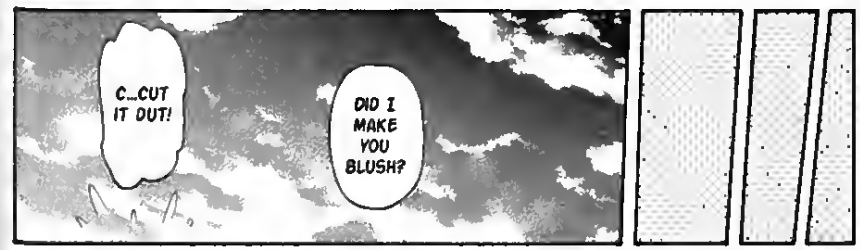
HM?
WHAT IS THAT CARD?

THIS?
IT'S MY ORGAN DONOR CARD.
ORGAN DONOR PROGRAM
I WISH TO DONATE THE FOLLOWING ANY NEEDED ORGANS & TISSUE
IT TELLS PEOPLE WHETHER YOU WANT TO DONATE YOUR ORGANS AFTER YOU DIE.

MINE HAS A CHECK IN THE "YES" BOX.
THAT SURE IS A NEAT IDEA.
AND IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU.

NO, NO! NOT AT ALL!
YOU KNOW MY DAD? WHEN HE DIED IN THE CAR CRASH...
...HE HAD A CARD JUST LIKE THIS ONE IN HIS WALLET.
HIS ORGANS WENT TO HELP A LOT OF PEOPLE.
...

I SEE WHERE YOU GET YOUR NOBLE SPIRIT.
YOUR FATHER WOULD BE VERY PROUD OF YOU.


C...CUT IT OUT!
DID I MAKE YOU BLUSH?

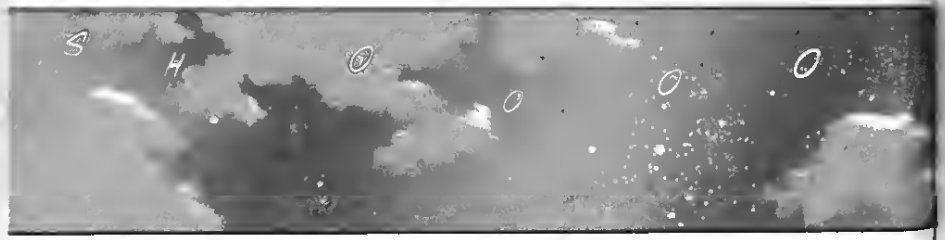
...!
YES?
IF YOU SAY SO...

BIG SIS!
WAKE UP, YAE!
MM... HUH?
SO YOU MADE UP YOUR MIND...
...TO TAKE ME TO HER AT LAST! ♡
NOT AT ALL, BIG SIS!
?
TSUNAMI ASKED ME IF SHE COULD MEET YOU.
TSU... NAMI?
OH, HERE SHE IS.

...
HERE?

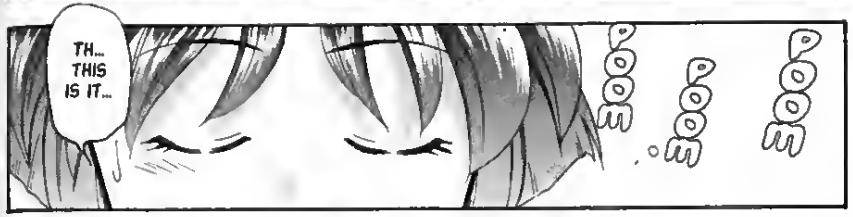
NOW CLOSE YOUR EYES, OKAY?

L-LIKE THIS?
YES... NOW STAY JUST LIKE THAT.


SHOOO

POOM
GOSH. MY HEART... IT'S POUNDING.
POOM
POOM

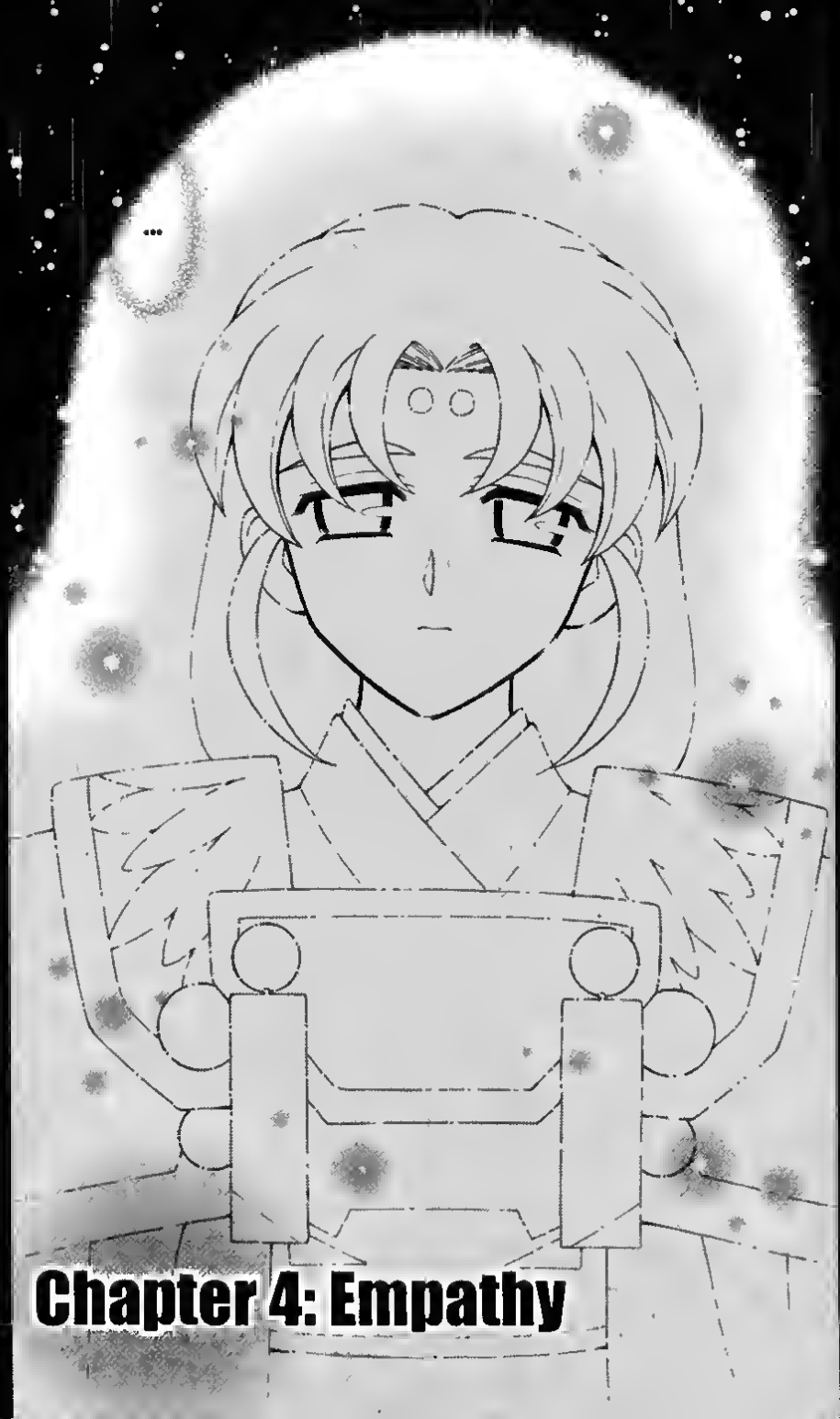
IS SHE HERE YET?
POOM
POOM
UH...
SASAMI?
OKAY OPEN YOUR EYES NOW


TH... THIS IS IT...
POOM
POOM
POOM

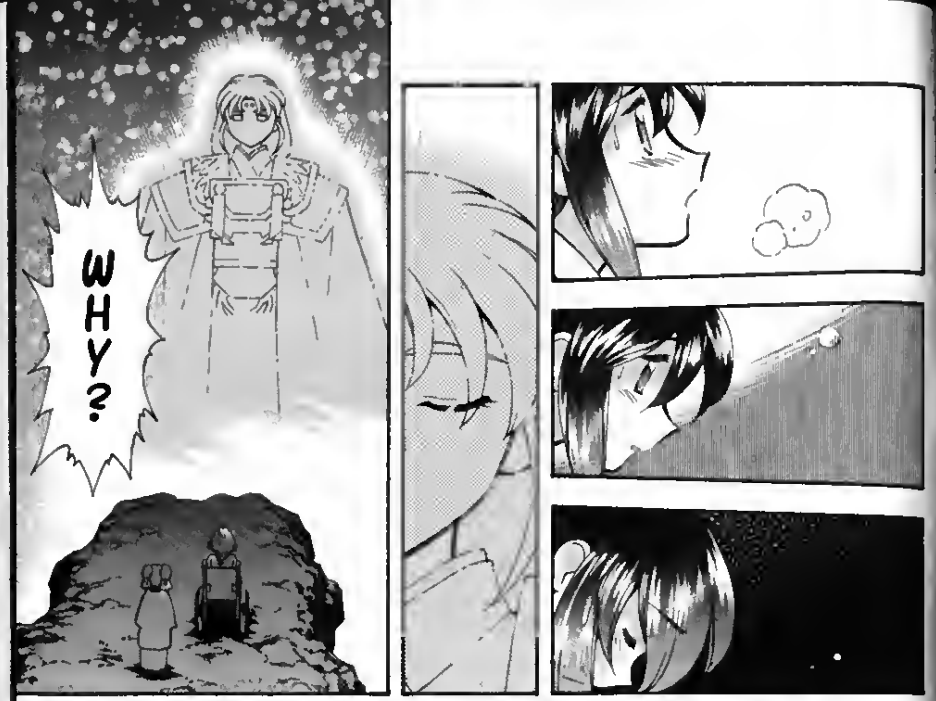
POOM
POOM
POOM

AH!
TSU...
TSUNA...
MI...

Chapter 4: Empathy



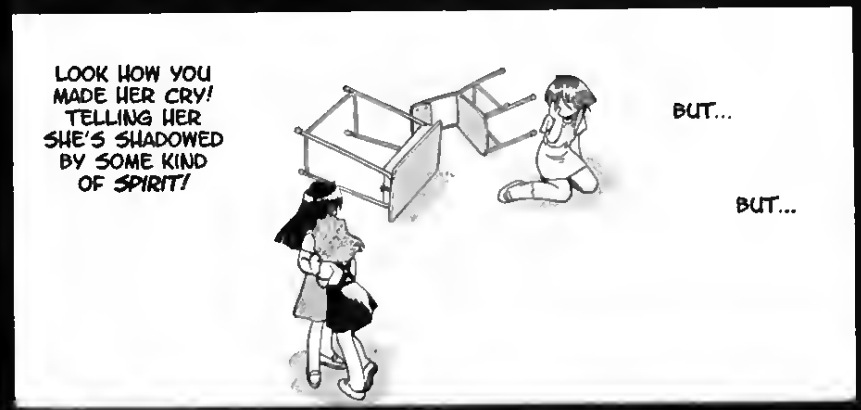
Chapter 4: Empathy


WHY?

OH, IT...
...IT'S OKAY. I DON'T...
...CARE ANYMORE IF I DON'T KNOW
BIG SIS YAE...

FOR ALL MY LIFE...
...I'VE WAITED TO MEET HER! AND NOW...
...NOW THAT THE TIME HAS COME I FEEL...
...SUCH UTTER CALM LIKE I'M NOT EVEN A BIT EXCITED LIKE I'M... FREE.

EEE!


LOOK HOW YOU MADE HER CRY! TELLING HER SHE'S SHADOWED BY SOME KIND OF SPIRIT!
BUT...
BUT...

LIAR
LIAR
LIAR
IT'S NOT A LIE!
I'M TELLING YOU THE TRUTH!
I SAW IT! I DID!
A PART OF ME EVEN BEGAN TO DOUBT MYSELF
MAYBE I WASN'T SEEING SPIRITS. MAYBE I WAS JUST MAKING IT ALL UP LIKE A STORY...
...OR A LIE.
BUT NOW I KNOW THAT WHAT I SAW... WAS REAL.
THE POOR DEAR...
SHHHH!
DON'T TALK TO HER JUST YET...
THIS RELIEF THAT I FEEL...
...TO KNOW I WAS RIGHT ALL THE TIME!
NO MORE SECOND GUESSING.
NOW I CAN TRUST MY OWN HEART.

EEE!
KNI
SKRA
BIG SIS! ARE YOU OKAY?
UNH UH
UH
I'M FINE. HA, HA, NA...
ONE, TWO, THREE, AND... ♡
SHE'S UP!
IS SHE THAT CLUELESS?

I'M OKAY, I REALLY AM.
YOU'RE OVERDOING IT.
NO, I'M FINE. ONE MORE TIME. ♡
BUT JUST KEEP IN MIND...
...YOU SAID I CAN TALK TO TSUNAMI WHEN I WALK AGAIN!
YES.
SHE'D LIKE TO SPEAK WITH YOU, TOO.
OH, BOY! ♡
UP UNTIL NOW, I'VE BEEN HIDING BEHIND MY PICTURE BOOKS.
I USED TO THINK IF I LEARNED TO WALK AGAIN, I'D HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL AND FACE ALL MY PROBLEMS.
I GUESS I WAS JUST AFRAID.

BUT I'M DONE RUNNING!
I MEAN IT!

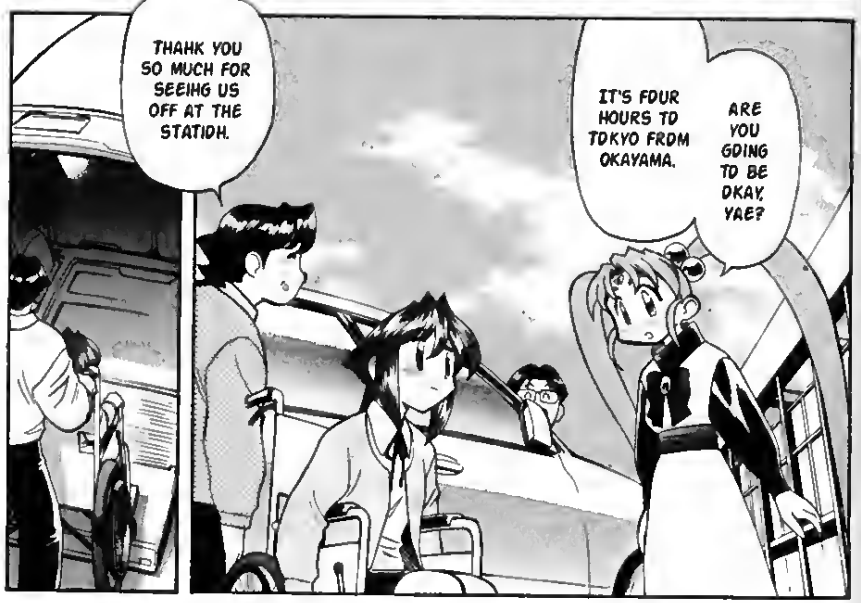
HEY! YAE IS STILL SLACKING OFF!
RELAX I'LL MEET THE DEADLINE, NO SWEAT ♡
SO SURE OF HERSELF.

WOW ♡ HOW NICE!
CHERRY TREES IH FULL BLOOM! ♡
HEH...I'M GLAO YOU LIKE IT, SASAMI. ♡

THIS IS THE VERY BEST SCENE IH THE WHOLE STORY.
IT IS?
THE SPIRIT VOWED TO MEET THE GIRL UHDER THE CHERRY TREES WHEH THEY BLOOMED...
IT'S TOO BAD THAT, IN REAL LIFE, WE'RE SOME TIME AWAY FROM THAT.
TEE HEE! YES IT IS!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO USE YOUR IMAGIHATION.
DOH'T I KNOW IT! SAY...
...WHEH THESE CHERRY TREES ARE IN FULL BLOOM, LET'S COME BACK!
WOW! ♡ DO YOU MEAH IT?
YOU BET! ♡

AND SO THE DAYS PASS...
WHEN DO WE EAT, HUH?
DID YAE WORK ALL NIGHT AGAIN?
I'LL GO SEE.
BIG SIS! BREAKFAST IS READY!
Z Z Z Z
FSSH
SO SHE'S ALL DONE!
CONGRATULATIONS, BIG SIS YAE...

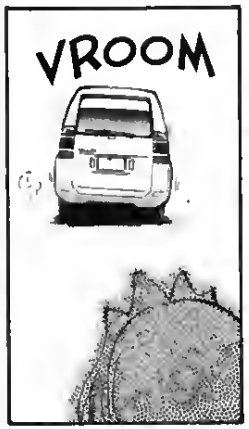
SKEE
WELL, HERE WE ARE!
JR STATION
OKAYAMA STATION


THAHK YOU SO MUCH FOR SEEIHG US OFF AT THE STATIDH.
IT'S FOUR HOURS TO TOKYO FROM OKAYAMA.
ARE YOU GOING TO BE OKAY, YAE?

THOSE FOUR HOURS WILL PASS IH A FLASH! ♡
THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHIHG EDITOR COULDH'T HE COME AHD GET THE MANUSCRIPT ?
DIDH'T HE SAY HE WAS KNEE-DEEP IH OTHER THIHGS?

YES...
...AND MAYBE IT'S A BLESSING IH DISGUISE!

I HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR YOU, YAE.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO HAND MY FIRST MAHUSCRIPT OIRECTLY TO THE EDITOR HE'S BEEH SO KIHO TO ME...
WELL, I'LL TAKE HER FROM HERE.
OH, LET ME HELP YOU UP.
NO, NO. YOU'VE DONE MORE THAH ENOUGH!
I HAVE ?
YAE, I'LL BE HOPING YOU WIH THAT PRIZE.
THANK YOU, MR. MASAKI!


VROOM

...
AH, SUCH GOOD FOLK.
YEAH!
OH, I FORGOT!
AH!

WE SHOULD CALL THE EDITOR TO SAY WE'RE ON OUR WAY.
RIGHT! I'LL WAIT HERE.
...
FLY AWAY!
HE'S SO ABSORBED IN HIS STORY!
I HOPE ONE DAY...
...MY PICTURE BOOKS ARE READ THE SAME WAY.

I CAN'T WAIT...
...FOR THE EDITOR TO SEE IT...
SKRT
MMM
SKREEEE

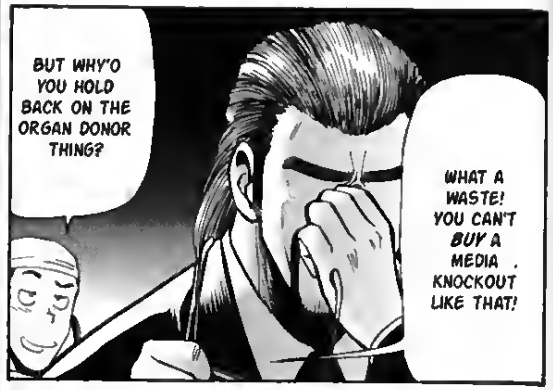
SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, IN TOKYO...

AND NOW, AT LONG LAST, THE GRAND PRIZE...
...BUT FIRST, WE HAVE SOME VERY SAD NEWS TO SHARE WITH YOU.
KAKUBUN PUBLISHING
Picture Book Grand Prize Award

A FEW WEEKS AGO... A YOUNG GIRL DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT. TRYING TO SAVE A LITTLE BOY.
SHE WAS, HERSELF, CONFINED TO A WHEELCHAIR FROM AN ACCIDENT SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE.
BUT, WHEN SHE SAW THIS BOY WAS GOING TO BE HIT BY A CAR...
...SHE ROSE TO HER FEET TO HELP.
OH... OH, NO...
WE NEED TO KNOW... HAVE YOU DECIDED ABOUT HER INTERNAL ORGANS?
ORGAN DONOR
YES, LET US HONOR HER WISHES...
SIR, PLEASE KEEP THIS CONFIDENTIAL...
OH...YES YES, I WILL...

WE LOST THAT KIND AND GIVING CHILD...
...AND ALL WHO KNEW HER SHARE IN OUR DESPAIR.
THAT HER WORK IS OUR GRAND-PRIZE WINNER TONIGHT GIVES US SOME SMALL SOLACE.
BUT REST ASSURED, WE DID NOT GIVE HER THE PRIZE OUT OF SYMPATHY.
HER WORK WILL SPEAK FOR ITSELF.
AND NOW...
...I GIVE YOU...
...THE WINNER OF THIS YEAR'S GRAND PRIZE, SURE TO TOUCH HEARTS EVERYWHERE.
UNDER THE PROMISE TREE BY YAE ASAKUCHI!
AWAY
UNDER THE PROMISE TREE
YAE ASAKUCHI

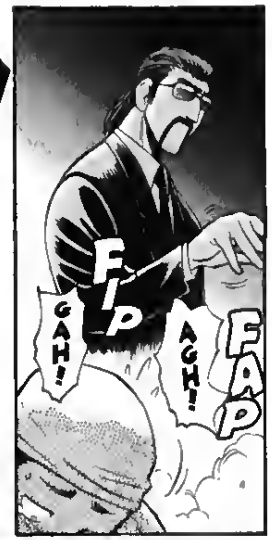
GOOD JOB, EDITOR! THIS'LL MAKE IT A BESTSELLER FOR SURE!


BUT WHY'D YOU HOLD BACK ON THE ORGAN DONOR THING?
WHAT A WASTE! YOU CAN'T BUY A MEDIA KNOCKOUT LIKE THAT!

LET'S LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG! IT'LL SELL A ZILLION COPIES! HEH HEH HEH...
FOLKS EAT UP THAT SAPPY STUFF!
INARI.

WHY... YES, SIR?
A BONUS, PERCHANCE?
HM?

POW!


GAH!
FAP
AGH!
FAP

WHA DIB OO DO 'AT?
AH GAH-ING TO SUE OO!

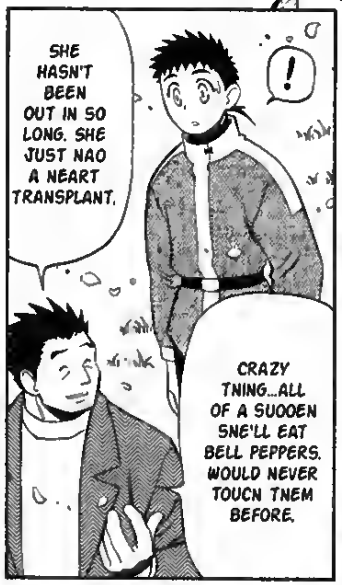
"OO GAH RIGHT AHEAD INARI.

SASAMI.
NO, I'M NOT GOING TO CRY.
YAE KEPT DOING AMAZING THINGS..EVEN AFTER SHE WAS GONE. SO I...
...I HAVE... TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IT...
SO...
...THIS IS IT. HERE WE ARE.
BIG SIS YAE. I...
...I'VE KEPT MY VOW TO YOU.
SPRING IS HERE, AND THE TREES ARE IN BLOOM.

OH! HOW BEAUTIFUL... ♡
OH, HELLO THERE.
HI.
HI.
OH, HI.
IT'S SO AMAZING. LIKE THE SKY IS *FILLED* WITH CHERRY BLOSSOMS!
SO *THESE* ARE CHERRY BLOOMS!

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN THEM?
OH, WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT...
...I'VE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER.
THIS IS MY FIRST DAY OUT.
OH, MY GOSH. I'M SORRY.
GOOD FOR YOU!
TO BE OUT AND ALL...
HEE HEE! YES, IT IS!
IT STILL FEELS SO ODD TO ME.
HOW SO?

!
IT WAS... YOUR HEART ?


SHE HASN'T BEEN OUT IN SO LONG. SHE JUST HAD A HEART TRANSPLANT.
!
CRAZY THING...ALL OF A SUDDEN SHE'LL EAT BELL PEPPERS. WOULD NEVER TOUCH THEM BEFORE.

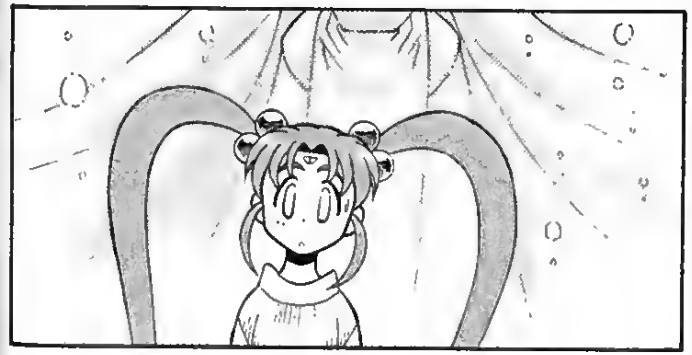
SHE'S TAKEN TO ARTWORK, AS WELL.
AND TODAY SHE UP AND BEGGED ME TO COME HERE.

SHE NEVER MUCH LIKED THE OUTDOORS.
...

I WAS AFRAID AT FIRST, BUT NOW THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMS NEW...
...AS IF I'VE BEEN... REBORN. ♡

KINO OF NEAT, NUH?

Y... YES.
KINO OF... NEAT.



!

TSU...
NAMI
IS...
...IS
YOUR
NAME
TSUNAMI
?

OH, MY.
WHY DID I SAY THAT?
?
OH... ARE YOU CRYING ?
BUT WHY ?
...
YOU...
...YOU CAME.
JUST LIKE YOU SAID YOU WOULD COME...

WELCOME BACK, BIG SIS YAE.

THERE ARE CASES ON RECORD OF PEOPLE HAVING A COMPLETE "CHANGE OF HEART" AS A RESULT OF A TRANSPLANT.
NEUROPEPTIDES IN THE BRAIN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MEMORY...
...BUT RECENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT NERVE CELLS IN OTHER ORGANS AND MUSCLES, SUCH AS THE HEART, CAN ALSO RELEASE NEUROPEPTIDES.
SHE SAID SHE HAD NO IDEA...
...BUT WHY WOULD SHE CALL OUT TSUHAMI'S NAME LIKE THAT? SURE MAKES YOU WONDER...
YES, IT IS A BIT ODD.
ONE THEORY IS THAT THE HEART IS GOVERNED BY THE INTRACARDIAC NERVOUS SYSTEM, A NETWORK OF NERVES INSIDE THE HEART.
FUNCTIONING INDEPENDENTLY OF THE BRAIN, THE ICN MAY EVEN STORE SENSORY IMPRESSIONS, ALLOWING DONOR MEMORIES TO BE TRANSPLANTED ALONG WITH A HEART.

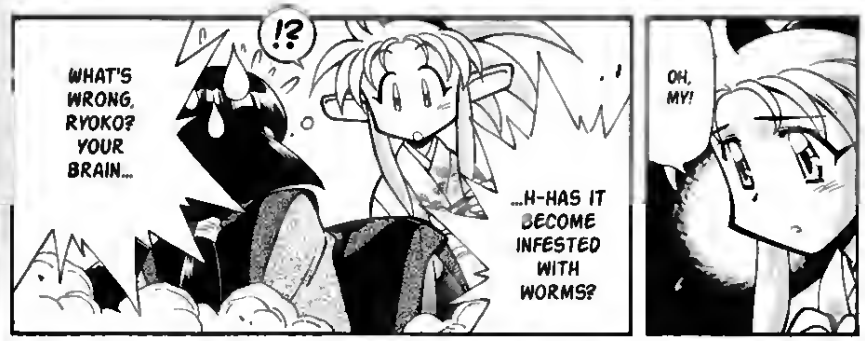
IT'S NOT SO ODD!
POP!
AFTER ALL, THE HEART IS THE SEAT OF THE SOUL, ISN'T IT?
IF YOU SAY SO!
"THE SEAT OF THE SOUL."
IN HER HEART, YAE WANTED TO KEEP HER PROMISE TO SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WITH SASAMI!

Chapter 5: Games

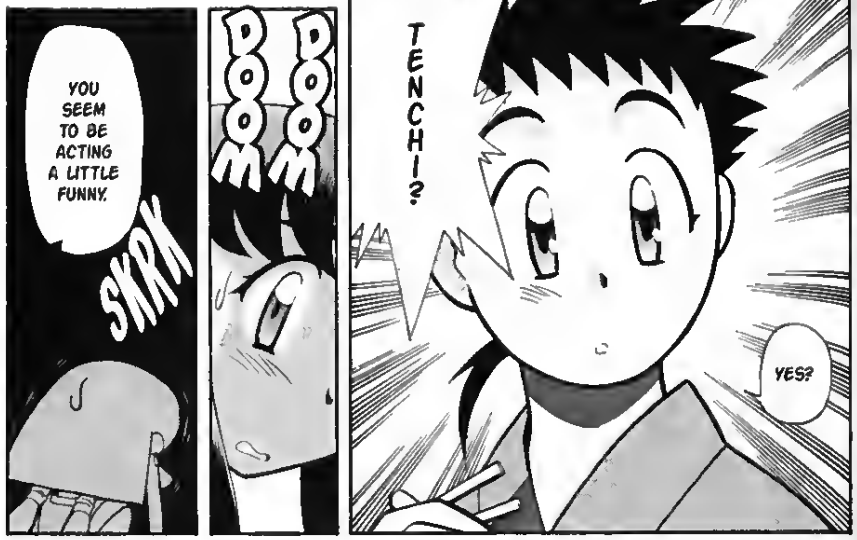
OOH, AYEKA. THIS IS SO TASTY IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD. ♡
LIKE A BITE?

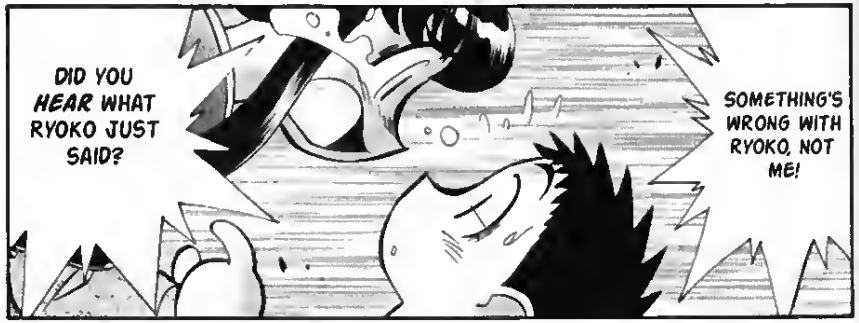
EH?

WHAT?!


WHAT'S WRONG, RYOKO? YOUR BRAIN...
!?
...H-HAS IT BECOME INFESTED WITH WORMS?
OH, MY!

AREN'T YOU FEELING WELL TODAY, AYEKA?
GA GA GA GA GA


YOU SEEM TO BE ACTING A LITTLE FUNNY.
SKRK
DOOM DOOM
TENCHI?
YES?

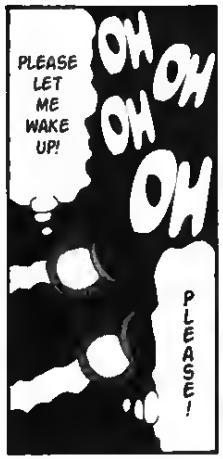

DID YOU HEAR WHAT RYOKO JUST SAID?
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH RYOKO, NOT ME!

I BET SHE'S JUST TIRED...
SKRK
...BUT SHE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT, SIS?
NOT SASAMI, TOO...

FORCED R&R!
TAKE HER AWAY, GUYS!
FWOOOOOP

WHMP
HEY, WAIT A SEC! IT'S NOT ME!
NO, NO. YOU NEED SOME REST.

I'LL STAY RIGHT HERE AND SEE TO ALL OF YOUR NEEDS, AYEKA.
OH, GOOD! SHE'LL BE FINE, THEN!
ICH ICH ICH ICH
TH-THIS MUST BE A DREAM! YES...A DREAM. THAT'S WHAT IT IS...


PLEASE LET ME WAKE UP!
OH OH OH OH
PLEASE!

TWEE TWEE
...MM.

OH OH OH OH

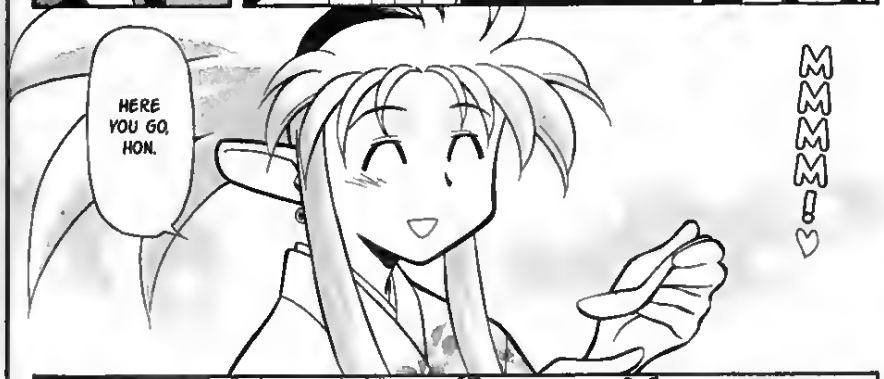
...

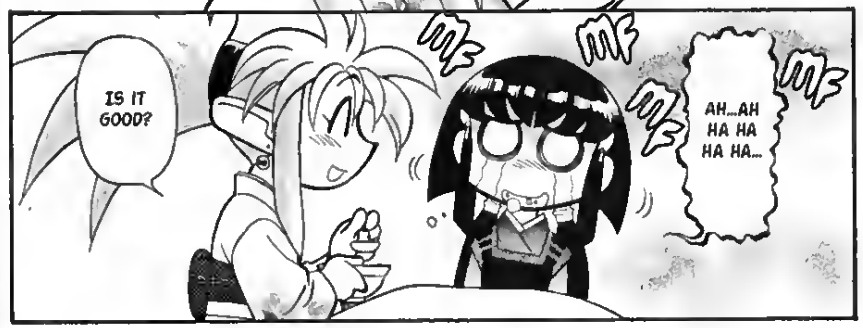
TWEE
TWEE

...

PHEW!
THANK GOODNESS! JUST A NIGHTMARE AFTER ALL.

OH, GOOD! SO YOU WOKE UP AT LAST!


HERE YOU GO, HON.
MMMM!♡


IS IT GOOD?
AH...AH HA HA HA HA...

GAH.
UNH
UNH
AUHH
HMM!
I HAD A HUNCH THIS WOULD BE THE CASE...
KRK
OH?
WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?
...BUT IT'S FUN TO SEE IT PLAY OUT! ♡
HEH!
YOU KNOW HOW AYEKA IS ALWAYS SAYING IT WOULD BE NICER HERE AT THE MASAKIS' IF YOU WERE A BIT MORE PROPER? WELL, WITH VIRTUAL REALITY...
...SHE CAN SEE FOR HERSELF!
SO YOU'RE SAYING I'M NOT PROPER, EH?

OH, WELL! ANYWAY...
CARE FOR A SIP?
HOW SWEET.
I WAS JUST GETTING THIRSTY!
BUT I'D BE A FOOL TO TAKE YOU UP ON IT!
LOOK!
NOW, NOW! DON'T BE SHY! DRINK UP!
GULP
GULP
GLAH!
ZZT
ZAP
ZZT
ZOLT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR TRYING TO HOG SUCH A COOL TOY.
NOW LET ME SEE! ♪
ZT
ZT
ZT
ZT
ZT
BOOP
AAAH

NO! IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
BAM
BAM
BAM
OH! OH, NO, AYEKA! STOP IT! PLEASE!
FIP
FAP
WIP
WAP
THAT'S WASHU FOR YOU. UNLIKE A DREAM, THIS PLACE HURTS FOR REAL!
GUESS IT MAKES SENSE. INPUT SIGNALS TO THE BRAIN AND ALL...
NOW IT'S TIME...
OUCH! OUCH! IT'S NOT A DREAM!
...TO GET DOWN TO SOME SERIOUS MIND CONTROL.
HA!

TA-TA-DA
THE MASAKI FAMILY PERSONALITY CONTROLLER!
BLOW BY BLOW! YAH HA HA!
WAP
WAP
WAP
FAP
FAP
FAP
FAP
FAP
FAP
OH, A-YE-KA...
VOOO
YOUR FATE IS IN MY HANDS.

MY, AYEKA. YOU'RE BLEEDING QUITE BADLY, AREN'T YOU?
POOF
POOF
POOF
WELL, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO CALM ABOUT IT!
HERE WE GO!
TAC
TAP
JI NG!
MAX
MIHOSHI
SPACE CADET METER
VMM
AAH-AHH-AHH-AHH-AHH!
NOO! CUT THAT OUT!
FWPSH
EVEN MIHOSHI IS ACTING ALL-OUT BIZARRE!
IT'S KIND OF HER USUAL OUT-OF-TOUCH BEHAVIOR, BUT REVVED UP-- TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL!

TMP TMP TMP
WHY?
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?
TMP TMP
HI, BIG SIS!
I'VE GOT SOME NEW RECIPES. WILL YOU TAKE A LITTLE TASTE FOR ME, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE?
TMP TMP TMP
CAN'T YOU SEE THIS IS NOT A GOOD TIME?
I'LL DO IT LATER, OKAY?
TUP TUP TUP
?!
SASAMI
MAX
SARCASM METER
VMM
PHEH!
FINE BY ME.
IN RETURN, I WILL NEVER COOK FOR YOU AGAIN. EVER. ♡

WHA?!
SKRT
NO, NO! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
SPLOOSH
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
HEH HEH HEH
GLUB AWUB WU TUB!
BLUP
BLUP
BLUP

WASHU
RUTHLESS METER
MAX
SLP
WATER RESISTANCE EXPERIMENT
FIRST PRINCESS OF JURAI
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
WUB
WUB
WUB
AH--AH--
AH--AH--
AH--AH!
KA
SNK
FWUP
UP UP
YOU CAN RUN.
...BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET. ♪
WHOOSH
TH-TH-THIS ISN'T FUNNY!
I'M GOING TO DIE! THIS IS IT FOR ME!

VSH
EH?
NO, NO, NO, NO!
♡WELCOME
AAAAH

KER SWISH

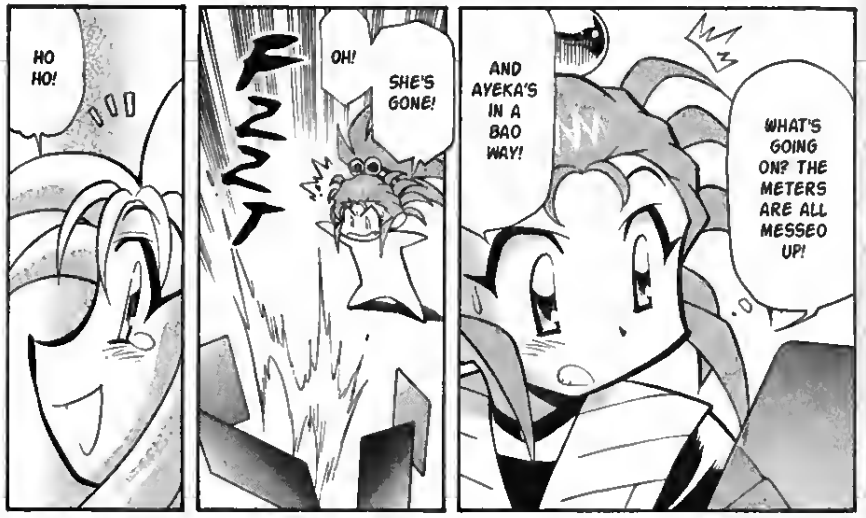
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
ARE YOU OKAY?

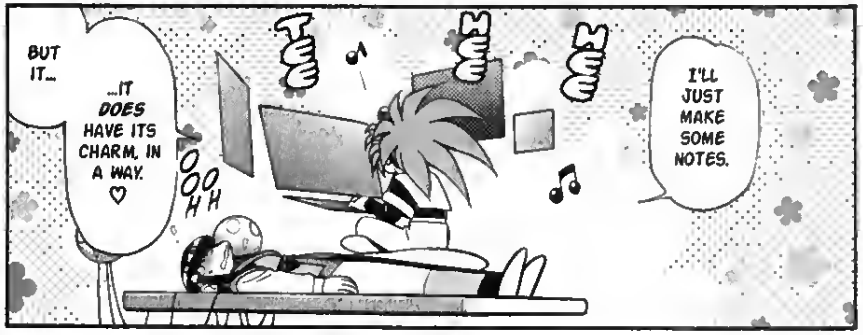
THAT MUST'VE BEEN AWFUL.
OHHH... T... TENCHI! IT'S YOU!
COME INTO MY ARMS.

OH, TENCHI! OH! ♡
TMSH

SWISH
NOOOO!
MAX
TENCHI
OUT THERE METER
UMMKRAK
WHAT!?
WHA, WHA, WHA, WHA, WHA!?
OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ!
T-TENCHI... ...ARE YOU SOME KIND OF BULL-FIGHTER?
NO. EVEN WORSE. HE'S AN AYEKA FIGHTER!

THIS IS THE HARDEST I'VE LAUGHED SINCE THIS SERIES BEGAN!
RY-O-KO...
A SNEAK COME-BACK!


HO HO!
FNNT
OH!
SHE'S GONE!
AND AYEKA'S IN A BAD WAY!
WHAT'S GOING ON? THE METERS ARE ALL MESSED UP!


BUT IT...
...IT DOES HAVE ITS CHARM, IN A WAY. ♡
OOHH
I'LL JUST MAKE SOME NOTES.

NO, THIS ISN'T RIGHT! I HAVE TO FIX THIS!

MMMM

...
MM...

WASHU, AM I... IN YOUR LAB?
YES, YOU ARE.
FORGIVE ME. YOU MET WITH SOME AWFUL EXPERIENCES...

AH! NOW I SEE WHAT WENT ON!
AND YOU SEE...
...THAT YOU DON'T WANT SOME SWEET RYOKO!
TOO TRUE!
IN FACT, I WAS DAZED FROM THE SHOCK OF IT ALL.

HEY THERE! ♡
SO ARE YOU...
FSTT
...THE REAL RYOKO, OR THE SWEET ONE?
A WARY GAZE!
HUH?
THE REAL ME?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? ARE YOU GOING SENILE ALREADY?
WAP
WAP
WAP

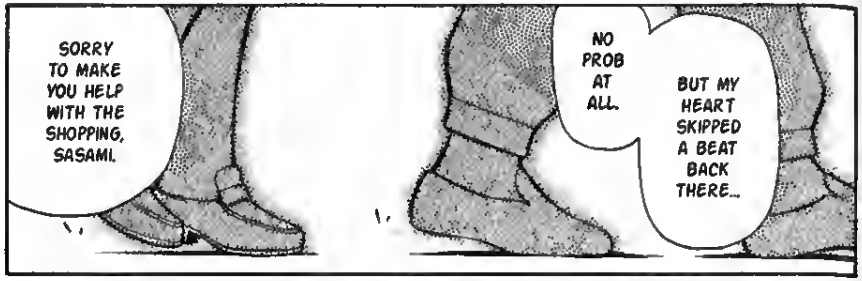
AH, YES!
RYOKO IS JUST AS RUDE AS EVER. WHAT A RELIEF!
SO THIS IS THE MOUTH THAT SPEWS ALL THE RUDE LINES.
WURP
AH, YES! THIS IS MORE LIKE IT!

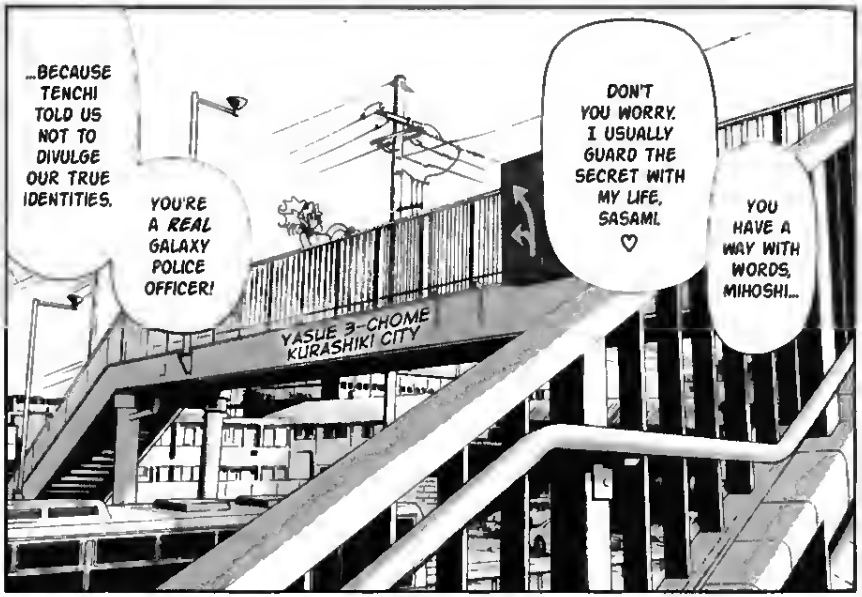
LOOKS AS IF THIS BROUGHT THEM CLOSER!
OF ALL THE CRAZY THINGS...
RYOKO BLEW OFF HER CHORES AGAIN.
OH, MAN.
I'LL GO DO THEM NOW.
OH! AND TEACHI'S BACK TO NORMAL, TOO.
OH, BY THE WAY...

Chapter 6: Deterrent

BYE, TEACHER!
BYE, BYE!
YES, BYE NOW!
MIHOSHI?
OKAY, TAKE YOUR TIME!
CROSS WALK

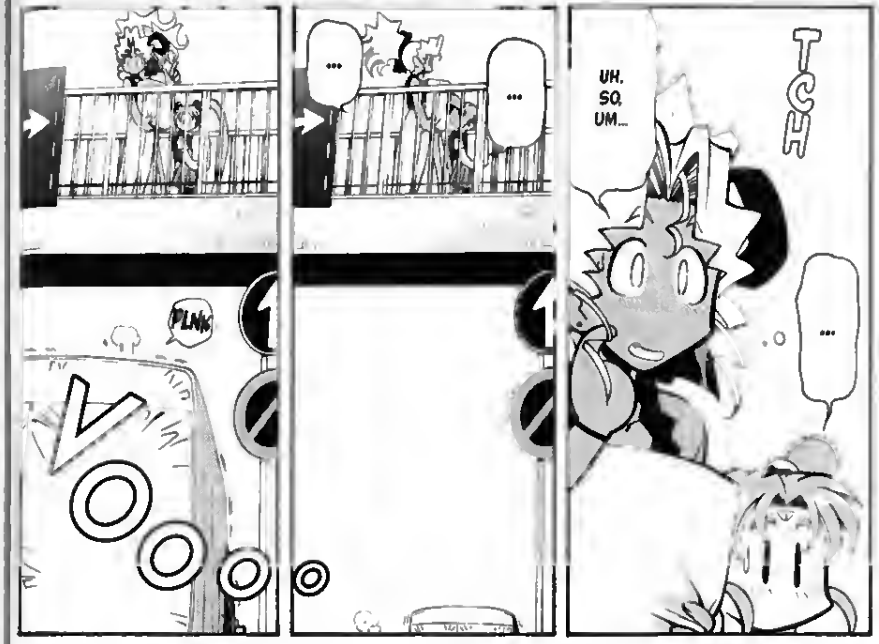
OH, HI THERE, SASAMI.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MIHOSHI?
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M A COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER.
I LIKE TO HELP OUT IF I'M ON AN ERRAND IN TOWN.
I AM AN OFFICER OF THE LAW!
OH... YES YOU ARE!
WHAT? YOU'RE A POLICE-WOMAN, MIHOSHI?
TAKE-SHI!
WOW! HOW COOL!
SO, SO, SO THAT MEANS YOU CAPTURE BAD GUYS, RIGHT?
I WATCH "INTERGALACTIC FORCE" EVERY WEEK.
YES, YES! ♡
BAD BOYS, BAD BOYS!
I DO, TOO, TAKESHI! EVERY WEEK! ♡


SORRY TO MAKE YOU HELP WITH THE SHOPPING, SASAMI.
NO PROB AT ALL.
BUT MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT BACK THERE...

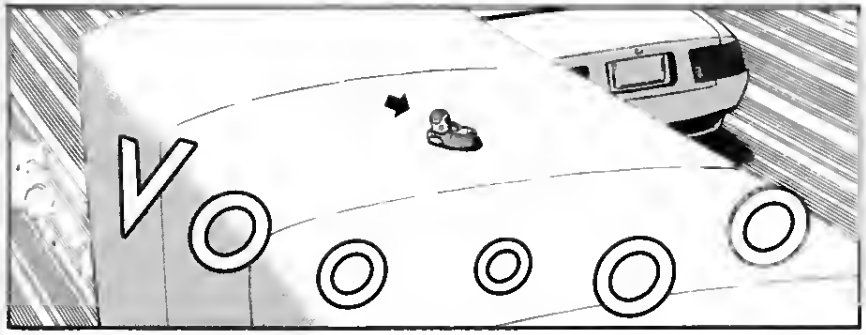

...BECAUSE TENCHI TOLD US NOT TO DIVULGE OUR TRUE IDENTITIES.
YOU'RE A REAL GALAXY POLICE OFFICER!
DON'T YOU WORRY. I USUALLY GUARD THE SECRET WITH MY LIFE, SASAMI. ♡
YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS, MIHOSHI...
YASUE 3-CHOME KURASHIKI CITY

SEE? I ALWAYS HAVE THIS WITH ME, WHEREVER I GO. ♡
THIS IS THE EXACT KIND OF THING I WORRY OVER...

OOP!

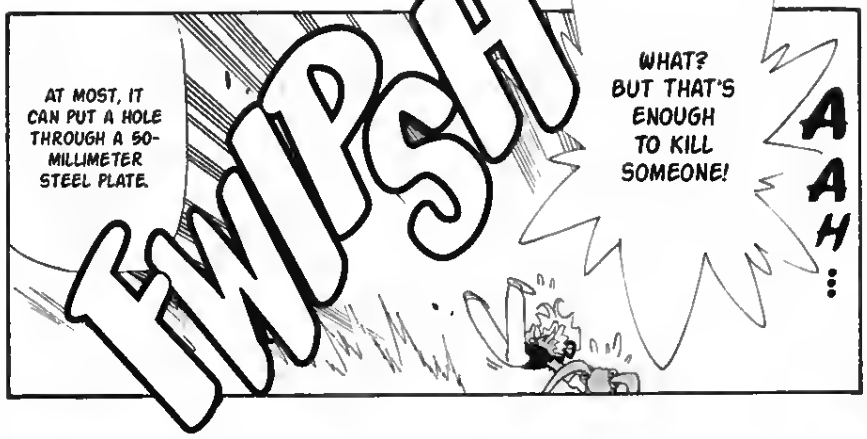

...
...
UH, SO, UM...
TCH
...
PLNK

...LOST ITEMS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE POLICE BOX, YES?
DON'T YOU DARE!



DON'T PARK OUTSIDE THE LINES...
...IN OUR FREE GAL-UX-EE!
VOOOO
VMOO
TRK
TRK-JAK
!

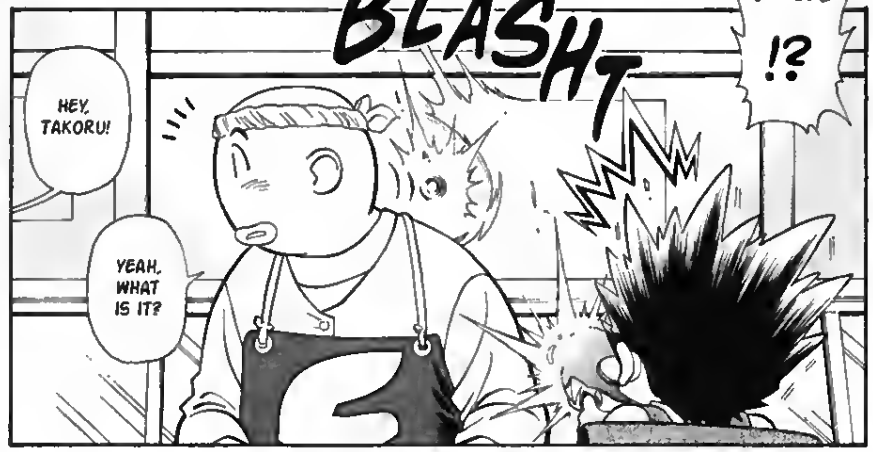
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
SEE, MIHOSHI, I TOLD YOU IT'S BAD TO CARRY A GUN AROUND!
NO NEED TO OVERREACT, SASAMI. IT HAS ONE OF THOSE SAFETY MECHAHISMS ON IT.
OH, GOOD.
HMM! NOW, DID I THINK TO CLICK IT ON TODAY?
ARE YOU OKAY, SASAMI?
WITH YOU...
...IT'S ONE THING OR THE OTHER.
BUT THE ENERGY OUTPUT IS SET TO LOW. SO THERE'S NOTHING TO FRET OVER.
UH...WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "LOW"?


AT MOST, IT CAN PUT A HOLE THROUGH A 50-MILLIMETER STEEL PLATE.
FWPSH
WHAT? BUT THAT'S ENOUGH TO KILL SOMEONE!
AAH...

FRESH FISH
BANG!
POW, POW, POW, POW, POW!
WHERE'D YOU GET SUCH A NICE TOY SON?
DID YOUR MOM BUY IT FOR YOU?

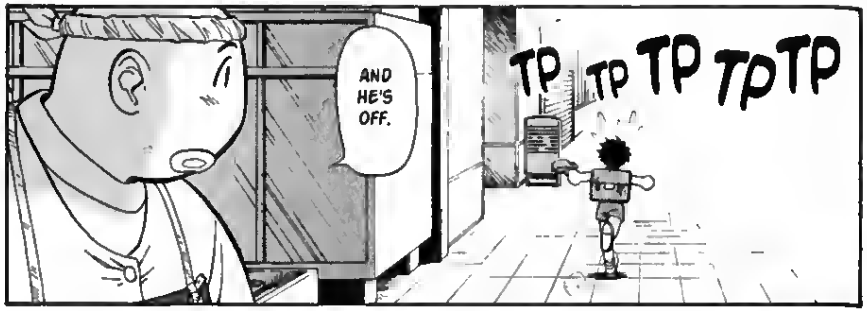
NOPE! IT'S NOT A TOY. IT'S REAL.
IT'S NOT NICE TO TEASE GROWN-UPS!
IF IT'S REAL, FIRE A SHOT AT YOUR OLD MAN!

OKAY! GET SET TO DIE, ALIEN!
CHAK


HEY, TAKORU!
YEAH, WHAT IS IT?
BLASHT
!?

YOU WERE PLAYING PACHINKO AGAIN!
WE CAN'T WASTE MONEY LIKE THAT, YOU OLD FOOL!
WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
BUT I DIDN'T DO IT!

OKAY, TAKE A SHOT AT...
EH?


AND HE'S OFF.
TP TP TP TPTP

DID YOU FIND IT, MIHOSHI ?
NOT YET.

SASAMI! I GOT SOME GOOD MACKEREL IN!
FISH
OH, YOU DID? ♡

LET'S SEE... I'LL TAKE THIS ONE AND...
OKAY!

...NO, NO, NO!
WHAT'S WRONG ?

ON A LOOKOUT FOR A TOY RAY GUN, EH?

WELL, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I SAW TAKESHI PLAYING WITH A TOY GUN JUST NOW...
FWAPSH
THAT'S IT!

IT'S THE REAL THING. WOW.
HEH! HEH HEH HEH! ♡
POOM POOM
WEEOOO
WEEOOO

PULL OVER TO THE LEFT!
PULL OVER AND STOP YOUR CAR!
VWOOOM

PATROL CAR CHASING MAN
JING!
BAD GUY
INSIDE A KID'S MIND
OKAY!
CHAK!
WEE
WEE
WEE
GEH!?
SKEE
KRESH
I GOT 'IM!
KA-BWAM
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
ZSH
KREK
KREK
KA
POW

WAAAOOO
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
SIR, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THE POLICE GOT A DRUNK DRIVER.
WAA WAA
BUT GET THIS! THE POLICE CAR WAS HIT BY A BULLET!
FROM THE BACK, NO LESS.
HOO, BOY. MAYBE IT WAS...
YEAH, BUT MAYBE NOT...
HEH!
BRING ON THE BAD GUYS! ♪
DAD!
IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOW!
INTERGALACTIC FORC
Co-sponsored by Soto-Yokoyado
BZZ
WOW! ♡

INTERGALACTIC FORCE
SKA BAM
WHO WILL RID THE GALAXY OF EVIL?
WHO WILL CATCH THE BAD BOYS?
I. G. FORCE! I. G. FORCE!
I. G. FORCE! I. G. FORCE!

FWAK
WHOA! GORBLAS KICKED HIM!
GWAHAHA! YOUR END HAS COME, DETECTIVE EAGLE!
GORBLAS, YOU DOG OF A COWARD!
COME ON, ALL YOU KIDS! LET'S HEAR YOU CHEER DETECTIVE EAGLE ON!
EAGLE! EAGLE! KAKRAW! KAKRAW!
STOP!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME NOW, GORBLAS!
?!
TP TP
WH... WHAT THE ...?
I DON'T THINK THE SCRIPT HAD THIS!
UM... ERR...
GET DOWN OFF THE STAGE, KID. THAT'S DANGEROUS.
INTERGALACTIC FORCE
IT'S OKAY! I'VE GOT HIM!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS GUY FOR YOU!
ZA
BLAST

KA
THUMP

UH...
OH, BOY...
GULP
WE WERE ABLE TO DEFEAT GORBLAS, THANKS TO YOU!
SPLASH FORCE
AAAH!
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
YAY
THANKS, EVERYONE! BYE NOW!
C'MON, MIHOSHI, THEY WENT BACKSTAGE!
THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY FANGIRL! LET'S GO!
KARAN!
KARAN!
BACKSTAGE? AS IN AUTOGRAPHS? YOU BET!
NOOO!

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE EAGLE HERE YOUR TOY?
NO! IT... IT'S MINE.
EXCUSE ME, BUT WE'RE WITH THAT LITTLE BOY, ANO...
OH, MY!
YOU ARE? HOW DID HE GET A GUN?
HE CAN'T... HUH?
EEK! SOMEBODY HELP ME!
HE GOT MY BAG!
BAD BOY!
DING!

STOP!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, OR I'LL SHOOT!
OUT OF MY WAY!
UMP
OW!
OKAY!
NSH
NSH
NSH
AAGH!
WH...
PLP
PLP
WHAT THE?!
UMP
UMP
UMP
GAH!

JNG! JNG!
YEEK!
IT'S ALL OVER, BAD GUY!
DON'T SHOOT!
DON'T DO IT!
LET ME EXPLAIN!
OH!
EEK!

CHAK
EEE!
IT DIDN'T GO OFF.
AH AH AH
YOU KNOW, I HAVEN'T CHARGED IT IN A WHILE...
AI YAI YAI YAI YAI.
HOW DOES HER LUCK HOLD OUT?
SKSSH
SORRY, TAKESHI, BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THAT BACK.
HO!
I'M THE ONE WHO FOUND IT. IT'S MINE!
BUT YOU ARE A GOOD GUY, RIGHT?
YEAH...
BAM, BAM, BAM, BAM!
FSSS
OH, A NEW TOY! BUT HOW?
IT'S A REWARD FROM A POLICE-WOMAN! SEE?
?
BAD BOYS, BAD BOYS!
WAH! NO MONEY LEFT FOR SNACKS!
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 8!

Fight!

VIZ editor Jason Thompson once said a very wise thing: "In the manga industry, *anything* can become a fighting tournament." As the man in charge of the English versions of *Yu-Gi-Oh!* And *Dragonball Z*, Jason knows fighting, and he's right on the money. In this volume of **All-New Tenchi**, we witness high drama and ideological battles raging in the rough-and-tumble world of children's-book illustration. To write her book, Yae has to conquer writer's block, fight a sleazy editor, win the trust of a goddess, and learn how to walk. The commercial-art business is tough.

Did Hitoshi Okuda put a little of his own experiences into Yae's story? I have my suspicions. As loyal readers will recall, the previous volume of **All-New Tenchi!** included the tragic death of Ayeka's adorable pet Mitsu. In this volume, Sleazy Editor Guy declares, "These days readers prefer to have an animal die to get the story really going." Coincidence? Only Okuda and his editors know for sure. And surely only a manga artist can appreciate Yae's creative struggle and give it the dramatic treatment it deserves.

At any rate, the Editor's Recommendations in this volume focus on the working world. All of them feature fighting, intense competition, and the struggle for success. Because it's a jungle out there...

Shaenon K. Garrity
Editor of **The All-New Tenchi Muyô!**

Like Tenchi? Love Tenchi?

If so, here ore some other books the editor thinks you'll enjoy:

Fullmetal Alchemist

In a childhood laboratory accident, young alchemists Edward and Alphonse Elric suffered serious injuries. Edward lost an arm and a leg—and Alphonse lost his entire body! Now Edward (fitted out with prosthetic limbs) and Alphonse (currently a soul inhabiting a suit of armor) are state alchemists, using their skills to carry out government orders. But they're secretly on the lookout for the legendary Philosopher's Stone, which may give them the power to set things right. One of the most popular manga in Japan today.

Kekkaishi

Yoshimori is still in high school, but he's training to take over the family business. He's a novice *kekkaishi*, a master of barrier magic, charged with the task of protecting ordinary people from the supernatural. By day, Yoshimori sleeps through his classes; by night, he patrols a sacred—or cursed—plot of land that attracts ghosts and demons. Working the night shift is wearing him out, and not just because every evening is a life-or-death battle. The girl next door is a *kekkaishi*, too... and she's way more skilled than he is!

Firefighter!

Here's a job as dangerous as alchemy or magic...but real. When hyper-enthusiastic young firefighter Daigo is assigned to Fire Company M, he's instantly disillusioned: his teammates seem to be weak, lazy, rude, or all of the above! But when the fire alarm sounds, the seasoned firefighters spring into action...and rookie Daigo panics at the worst possible moment. Now Daigo has to learn the ropes and figure out what makes the other firefighters put their lives on the line, so that he can become the hero he's always wanted to be.

RANDOM SONS
QUICK RELEASE
&
KICK THE KITTY